

Time	5.00 pm	Public Meeting?	YES	Type of meeting	Executive
Venue	Committee Room 3, Third Floor - Civic Centre, St Peter's Square, Wolverhampton WV1 1SH				

Membership

Chair Cllr Roger Lawrence (Lab)
Vice-Chair Cllr Peter Bilson (Lab)

Labour

Cllr Steve Evans
Cllr Val Gibson
Cllr Louise Miles
Cllr Hazel Malcolm
Cllr Lynne Moran
Cllr John Reynolds
Cllr Sandra Samuels OBE
Cllr Paul Sweet

Quorum for this meeting is five Councillors.

Information for the Public

If you have any queries about this meeting, please contact the Democratic Services team:

Contact Philippa Salmon
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Some items are discussed in private because of their confidential or commercial nature. These reports are not available to the public.

Agenda

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item No. *Title*

MEETING BUSINESS ITEMS

- 1 **Apologies for absence**
- 2 **Declaration of interests**
- 3 **Minutes of the previous meeting** (Pages 5 - 12)
[For approval]
- 4 **Matters arising**
[To consider any matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting]

DECISION ITEMS (AMBER - DELEGATED TO THE CABINET)

- 5 **Wolverhampton for Everyone Partnership and Ward Funds** (Pages 13 - 28)
[To approve a proposed initiative to support Wolverhampton for Everyone, to introduce a Ward Fund available for each ward as part of a one year initial pilot.]
- 6 **Westside Link Public Realm Proposals - Outcome of Consultation for Phases 1 and 2 and Potential Delivery Programme for Phase 1** (Pages 29 - 44)
[To consider the outcome of the public and stakeholder consultation on the Westside Link Project Phases 1 and 2 and endorse the next steps.]
- 7 **Tackling Interpersonal Violence and Abuse Including Violence against Women and Girls Strategy 2019-2022** (Pages 45 - 74)
[To approve the Tackling Interpersonal Violence and Abuse Including Violence against Women and Girls Strategy 2019-2022.]
- 8 **City of Wolverhampton Safeguarding Statement** (Pages 75 - 84)
[To approve the City of Wolverhampton Safeguarding Statement for both Adults and Children.]

9 **Children and Young People's Participation and Co-Production Strategy 2019-2021** (Pages 85 - 100)
[To approve the Children and Young People's Participation and Co-Production Strategy 2019-2021.]

10 **City of Wolverhampton Youth Council Annual Report 2018** (Pages 101 - 124)
[To endorse the annual report outlining the activities and achievements of the City's Youth Council in 2018.]

11 **Exclusion of press and public**
[To pass the following resolution:

That in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business as they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information on the grounds shown below.]

PART 2 - EXEMPT ITEMS, CLOSED TO PRESS AND PUBLIC

12	Education Grants (Pages 125 - 130) [To approve the acceptance of Education grant funding.]	Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)	(3)
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CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Meeting of the Cabinet Minutes - 27 March 2019
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Attendance

Members of the Cabinet

Cllr Roger Lawrence (Chair)
Cllr Peter Bilson (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Steve Evans
Cllr Val Gibson
Cllr Louise Miles
Cllr Hazel Malcolm
Cllr Lynne Moran
Cllr Sandra Samuels OBE
Cllr Paul Sweet

Employees

Tim Johnson	Managing Director
Mark Taylor	Deputy Managing Director
Claire Nye	Director of Finance
John Denley	Director of Public Health
Richard Lawrence	Director of Regeneration
Kate Martin	Service Director of Housing
Tracey Christie	Head of Legal Services
Jaswinder Kaur	Democratic Services Manager
Philippa Salmon	Democratic Services Officer

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item No. *Title*

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor John Reynolds.

2 Declaration of interests

Kate Martin, Service Director of Housing, declared a pecuniary interest in item 8 – Review of Senior Management Structure - April 2019.

Tim Johnson, Mark Taylor, Claire Nye, John Denley, Richard Lawrence and Kate Martin declared a pecuniary interest in item 9 – Senior Pay Policy Statement 2019-2020.

3 **Minutes of the previous meeting**

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 20 February 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4 **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

5 **Our Council Plan 2019-2024**

Councillor Roger Lawrence presented the Our Council Plan 2019-2024 for approval and recommendation to Full Council. The Our Council Plan would replace the existing Corporate Plan 2016-2019 and would build on the Council's transformation journey with a focus on delivering improved outcomes for the City. Extensive consultation had been undertaken and the work to create and launch the new Council Plan was commended.

Resolved:

Council is recommended to:

1. Approve the Council's Our Council Plan 2019-2024.

Cabinet resolved:

1. That it be noted that the Council Plan priorities emerged following extensive consultation with over 3,000 people and that the draft plan was available for public consultation to ensure it is reflective of our City's needs.

6 **Wolverhampton Strategic Economic Plan**

In the absence of Councillor John Reynolds, Councillor Roger Lawrence presented the Wolverhampton Strategic Economic Plan for approval and recommendation to Full Council. The Wolverhampton Strategic Economic Plan would aim to deliver inclusive growth and create the conditions for growth in the City. The refreshed Plan would sit within a hierarchy of plans to ensure that work would continue to deliver inclusive economic growth, including an enterprising city; a working and inclusive city; a vibrant city; and a future city.

Resolved:

Council is recommended to:

- Adopt the Wolverhampton Strategic Economic Plan.

7 **Wolverhampton Homes Business Plan 2019-2023**

Councillor Peter Bilson presented the Wolverhampton Homes Business Plan 2019-2023 for approval and recommendation to Full Council. The Business Plan would replace the annual Delivery Plan to allow for longer term service and financial planning. The Business Plan set out how Wolverhampton Homes proposed to deliver services and support the strategic objectives of the Council and the City Housing Strategy for the next four years.

Resolved:

Council is recommended to:

1. Approve the Wolverhampton Homes Business Plan 2019-2023.

Cabinet resolved:

1. That it be noted that this four-year Business Plan replaces the Delivery Plan which has previously been provided annually.

8 **Review of Senior Management Structure - April 2019**

Kate Martin, Service Director of Housing, left the room at this point and took no part in the consideration of the item.

Councillor Roger Lawrence presented the Review of Senior Management Structure – April 2019 for approval and recommendation to Full Council. The Managing Director had undertaken a thorough review of the current Senior Management Structure to ensure it aligned to the Council's Vision 2030 and Corporate Plan Objectives and provided good value for money. The change in structure would provide clarity and ensure that the £350,000 savings previously agreed would be achieved. The pay grades discussed in the report referred to the Council's current pay policy.

Resolved:

Council is recommended to approve:

1. The Director of Pensions post to be regraded from Grade 14 to Grade 15.
2. The Assistant Director – Investment and Pensions post to be regraded from Grade 13 to Grade 14.
3. The establishment of an Assistant Director – Pensions post Grade 14 subject to appointment by a Special Appointments Committee.
4. The Service Director for City Environment post is redesignated to Director for City Environment and the post be regraded from Grade 13 to Grade 14.
5. The Service Director for Housing post is redesignated to Director for City Housing and the post be regarded from Grade 13 to Grade 14.
6. The Head of Communications post is redesignated to Director of Communications and External Relations and the post be regraded from Grade 12 to Grade 14.
7. The Director of Black Country Transport post be regraded from Grade 13 to Grade 14.

Cabinet resolved:

1. That the structural changes outlined within this report be approved to further increase opportunities for creative solutions and increased performance of the Council's business activities.
2. That authority be delegated to the Managing Director to undertake any final consultations with employees and trade unions to implement the changes contained within this report.
3. That it be approved that the fixed term arrangements for the current interim Strategic Director of Place will cease on 31 March 2019, and the post be subsequently deleted.
4. That it be approved that the Director of Commercial Services post is deleted, the current post holder left the Council on 21 December 2018.
5. That it be approved that the Service Director for Strategy and Change post is deleted, the current post holder left the Council on 27 January 2019.
6. That it be approved that the Assistant Director – Schools Standards vacant post is deleted.
7. That it be noted that the structural changes contained within this report will be implemented, subject to approval with effect from 1 April 2019, unless otherwise stated within this report.

8. That it be noted that a further delegated review of operational structures will take place by the Managing Director/Strategic Executive Board following the appointments approved within this report.
9. That it be noted that job evaluation takes place, as appropriate where roles have changed as a result of the Senior Management restructure.
10. That it be noted that there are net savings arising from these recommendations to the General Fund in the region of £350,000.
11. That it be noted that the current interim Strategic Director for Place role may remain with the Council to complete some project based work beyond the current contract end date of 31 March 2019.
12. That it be noted that the line management arrangements currently aligned to the Strategic Director for Place are changed as detailed within this report.
13. That it be noted that the line management arrangements currently aligned to the Director of Commercial Services are changed as detailed within this report.
14. That it be noted that the Head of Corporate Landlord post remains vacant until the review of the service has been completed.
15. That it be noted that the Head of Visitor Economy post remains vacant until the review of the service has been completed.
16. That it be noted that the line management arrangements currently aligned to the Service Director for Strategy and Change were changed as detailed within this report with effect from 28 January 2019.
17. That it be noted that a number of services, detailed within this report have transferred to the Director of Governance with effect from 28 January 2019.
18. That it be noted that, as a consequence of the above recommendation, that the Head of Public Service Reform be redesignated Head of Governance and has also transferred under the line management of the Director of Governance, with effect from 28 January 2019.
19. That it be noted that the Head of Business Management will be redesignated the Head of Business Change and assume responsibilities for services as detailed within this report with effect from 28 January 2019.
20. That it be noted that the creation of a Head of Strategy post will have responsibility for the services as detailed within this report.
21. That it be noted that the Head of Human Resources will change reporting lines from the Managing Director to the Deputy Managing Director.
22. That it be noted that the Head of Strategic Commissioning left the Council on 3 March 2019 and the post has been deleted.
23. That it be noted that the Strategic Commissioning Team has been devolved back into each individual service (Children's, Adults and Public Health), to enable Directors to prioritise commissioning resources in a more agile and flexible way.
24. That it be noted that the Head of People post will be deleted, and a Head of Children's Improvement and Head of Adults Improvement will be created.
25. That it be noted that the Head of Customer Service post has been deleted following the departure of the postholder on 30 September 2018.
26. That it be noted that, following the review of Customer Services, the function will report to the Director of City Environment.
27. That it be noted that a further review of the structure at the West Midlands Pension Fund will take place following the senior manager changes.

9 **Senior Pay Policy Statement 2019-2020**

Tim Johnson, Mark Taylor, Claire Nye, John Denley, Richard Lawrence and Kate Martin left the room at this point and took no part of the consideration of the item.

Councillor Val Gibson presented the Senior Pay Policy Statement 2019-2020 for approval and recommendation to Full Council. The Senior Pay Policy Statement fulfilled the Council's statutory duty to prepare an annual pay policy statement. The pay structure proposed in the report would replace the current pay policy referred to in the report for item 8 – Review of Senior Management Structure - April 2019. It was proposed that grades 13 and 14 would be merged, with grades 15 and 16 to be subsequently regraded appropriately. The ratio between the highest and lowest Council employees had been confirmed as 8.61:1, which was below the recommended threshold for the public sector.

Resolved:

Council is recommended to:

1. Approve the Senior Pay Policy Statement for 2019 - 2020.
2. Approve the publication of the Senior Pay Policy Statement in line with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011.
3. Note that the Service Director and Director grades become a single grade 13 recognising the parity of the roles and responsibilities of the postholders.
4. Note that the Senior Pay Policy Statement 2019-2020 now incorporates a delegation to the Leader of the Council, in consultation with the Head of Paid Service, to approve additional payments to senior management, upon cessation of employment, in addition to redundancy payments where these amount to less than £100,000 in total.
5. Note that the constitution will require some changes to comply with legislation and this Senior Pay Policy. These will be reported to a future Governance Committee.

10 **Employee Offer, Pay Model and Collective Agreement**

Councillor Val Gibson presented the Employee Offer, Pay Model and Collective Agreement for approval and referred to the amended version of the report and Appendix 2 provided in the supplement pack.

The pay model incorporated the nationally agreed pay award to the City of Wolverhampton pay model and all NJC employees would receive the national agreed pay award of a minimum of 2%. The estimated total payroll costs for the Council for 2019-2020 was in the region of £150 million; this included the NJC pay award which must be implemented in April 2019. The Council was seeking to achieve savings of £2 million from amendments to the terms and conditions of employment in 2019-2020. All trade unions had agreed to the changes to the terms and conditions of employment, except the Soulbury Trade Union where negotiations were ongoing. There had been significant consultation and it was proposed that all employees within scope would be required to take three days leave without pay, and that the Council would introduce a Christmas closure using the three days of mandatory unpaid leave.

Resolved:

1. That the proposed amendments to the NJC pay Model be approved as detailed in the Collective Agreement March 2019.

2. That the amendments to terms and conditions be approved as detailed in the Collective Agreement March 2019.
3. That the implementation of above with an effective date of 1 April 2019 be approved.
4. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Governance, in consultation with the Deputy Managing Director, to approve a collective agreement with Soulbury employees to implement a mandatory unpaid leave scheme.

11 **Analysis of the Gender Pay Gap on 31 March 2018**

Councillor Val Gibson presented the Analysis of the Gender Pay Gap on 31 March 2018 for approval. The report fulfilled the Council's statutory requirement to publish various figures to demonstrate how large the gender pay gap was between their male and female employees. The Council had a mean gender pay gap of 0.00% on 31 March 2018. The pay gap in the upper quartiles was currently higher than the lower quartiles and work was underway to analyse this and put steps in place to close the gap.

Resolved:

1. That the attached report on the City of Wolverhampton Council's Gender Pay Gap for 31 March 2018 be approved.
2. That it be noted that the median pay gap for 31 March 2018 is 0.00%.
3. That it be noted that the Gender Pay Gap data will be published on the Gender Pay Gap reporting on the GOV.UK site together with the attached report.

12 **Our People Strategy 2019-2024**

Councillor Val Gibson presented the Our People Strategy 2019-2024 for approval. The Our People Strategy was the Council's organisational development strategy that would support and develop employees to enable them to deliver the services needed by the City, and enable the Council to address current challenges in a constrained financial context. The Strategy was accompanied by action plans and an Our People Employee Forum to measure the success of initiatives and update where required.

Resolved:

1. That the new Our People Strategy 2019-2024 content and action plans, which forms one strand of the new Council Plan, be approved.
2. That the use of employee working groups to configure appropriate change aligned to the action plans in the strategy be endorsed, in accordance with the restorative approach the Council is seeking to embed.
3. That the introduction of the Our People Employee Forum which will be the governance process for the strategy, set up to measure the success of initiatives and update where appropriate, be endorsed.
4. That it be noted that this strategy and the associated actions plans have been written for employees, using employees' feedback. It is written in the second person so employees can relate to it directly.

13 **Scrutiny Review of Flood Risk Preparation and Response**

Councillor Hazel Malcolm presented the Scrutiny Review of Flood Risk Preparation and Response for approval and thanked the Scrutiny Review Group for their work. The report compiled the key findings and recommendations of the Scrutiny Review of the performance and response of City of Wolverhampton Council and other relevant partners to the flash flooding incident that affected parts of Wolverhampton in May 2018.

Councillor Philip Bateman MBE, Chair of the Scrutiny Review, stated that the Scrutiny Review Group had uncovered some areas for improvement in communication and emergency planning and preparation. Work on the review recommendations identified was already underway and was detailed in the action plan.

Resolved:

That the recommendations of the review group be approved as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report.

14 **MiFriendly City implementation**

Councillor Peter Bilson presented the MiFriendly City implementation for approval. MiFriendly Cities was a European programme that looked to improve integration in cities with high levels of migration and would allow Wolverhampton to have the status of one of Europe's few migrant friendly cities. Participants in the programme would be assisted to make a positive contribution to the City via the range of new services, qualifications and experiences available.

Resolved:

1. That the acceptance of the grant of £388,000 awarded to the council from Urban Innovative Actions, a body of the European Regional Development Fund to deliver MiFriendly Cities activities in Wolverhampton, be approved.
2. That a budget of £388,000 within City Housing be approved for the MiFriendly Cities project on the understanding that this is funded by the grant from the European Regional Development Fund.
3. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for City Assets and Housing, in consultation with the Service Director of Housing, to award a contract/individual contracts following a tender process for projects related to MiFriendly Cities.
4. That the requirement for the Council to contribute twenty percent of the total project cost equal to £97,000 of match funding be noted. This will be from existing approved budgets in the form of employee time.
5. That the overall work undertaken in Wolverhampton in relation to new communities, including work to date on the MiFriendly Cities project in Wolverhampton, be noted.
6. That the work on the development of an operational group to have oversight of new community projects be noted.

15

Black Country Reducing Reoffending Strategy 2019-2022

Councillor Hazel Malcolm presented the Black Country Reducing Reoffending Strategy 2019-2022 for endorsement. The Strategy would improve the coordination of multi-agency delivery in the management of offenders, improve intelligence and ensure that offending behaviour could be tackled across local authority areas. The key priorities had been identified as prevention, reducing reoffending and reducing the risk of harm.

Resolved:

That the Black Country Reducing Reoffending Strategy 2019-2022 be endorsed and its implementation supported.

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Cabinet 10 April 2019
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Report title	Wolverhampton for Everyone Partnership and Ward Funds	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Roger Lawrence Leader of the Council	
Key decision	Yes	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Accountable Director	Tim Johnson, Managing Director	
Originating service	Managing Director	
Accountable employee	Mark Taylor	Deputy Managing Director
	Tel	01902 556609
	Email	mark.taylor@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Executive Team	12 February 2019
	Strategic Executive Board	12 March 2019

Recommendations for decision:

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Approve the establishment of a Ward Fund of £10,000 for each of the 20 wards, totalling £200,000 as a pilot for a period of one municipal year, running from May 2019 to May 2020.
2. Approve a contribution of £50,000 to be made to the Wolverhampton for Everyone Partnership to accelerate their programme and agenda.
3. Approve start-up costs to manage and administer the ward funds process at a cost of £25,000.
4. Approve that the total cost of £275,000 be funded from Public Health grant income.
5. Approve the proposed Governance structure for the ward funds and that the Constitution be amended accordingly.
6. Delegate authority to the Leader, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer, to make any changes to the Ward Funds governance.

7. Delegate authority to the Leader, in consultation with the Deputy Managing Director, to make any changes to the Ward Funds processes and procedures.

Recommendations for noting:

The Cabinet is recommended to note that:

1. Wolverhampton for Everyone is an existing partnership between the City of Wolverhampton Council, Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council and other key partners.
2. The core values of Wolverhampton for Everyone have been included within the Council Plan 2019-2024 and the ward funds initiative will directly contribute towards the partnership by co-producing and co-designing local solutions to foster cultural change and future resilience within communities.
3. A full evaluation of the impact of the ward funds initiative will be undertaken in order to establish the outcomes delivered for the community, this will help to inform whether the ward funds will be available in future years, the outcome of this evaluation will be reported to Cabinet.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 Ward Funds is an initiative that will support and strengthen the Council's partnership contribution to Wolverhampton for Everyone and support the key issues identified by the Managing Director following his ward walks in 2018. It will further support how we address some of the key actions that were agreed following the Local Government Associations' recommendations from the Corporate Peer Review in 2017 to review the changing role of Councillors.
- 1.2 Approval is being sought for £200,000 (£10,000 to be split and spent in consultation between ward Councillors and Director Ward Champions for each of the 20 wards). It will give ward Councillors the opportunity to further develop their roles within the community by tackling smaller issues through co-production and co-design of solutions for a period of one year (May 2019 to May 2020). There will be regular robust reporting mechanisms with strong governance and all spend will be published on the Council's website.
- 1.3 Public Health grant income will be used to provide the £200,000 as well as a contribution of £50,000 to further support the work of Wolverhampton for Everyone and a further £25,000 to fund a management and administration post associated with the pilot.
- 1.4 Every application made will need to illustrate which of the following six strategic outcomes of the Council Plan 2019-2024 it will link to:
 - Children and young people get the best possible start in life;
 - Well skilled people working in an inclusive economy;
 - More good jobs and investment in our City;
 - Better homes for all;
 - Strong, resilient and healthy communities;
 - A vibrant, green City we can all be proud of.
- 1.5 Once spending is complete (1 March 2020) there will be a full impact assessment (March 2020) to identify the viability of the ward funds initiative and a full report submitted with recommendations for future years.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Following the appointment of a new Managing Director in 2018 there was a refreshed focus, which included 'Shaping a new community relationship.' To achieve this the Deputy Managing Director has been assigned to champion the voluntary and community sector and be the Council's strategic lead for the Council's contribution towards the community relationship of Wolverhampton for Everyone.

- 2.2 Since his appointment, the Managing Director has conducted ward walks in 19 wards, with the final one due to take place in the near future. The walks identified 232 actions and the top five issues and common trends were:
- Environmental Services (fly-tipping, condition of open spaces and parks and tree maintenance);
 - Planning (condition of private land and property);
 - Public Health (needle litter, anti-social behaviour and rough sleepers);
 - Corporate Landlord (condition of council owned buildings e.g. community centres, park conservatories);
 - Road Safety (speeding);
 - Parking (lack of space, inconsiderate parking).
- 2.3 The Managing Director's ward walks also identified the opportunity to develop a support mechanism to further enable ward Councillors to work with their communities to resolve local issues, with the support of Director Ward Champions.
- 2.4 The new Council Plan 2019-2024 has the community at the heart of its primary objective. The voluntary and community sector is key to delivering the Council Plan and the City Vision for 2030: 'A vibrant civic society which is focused on the future, empowers local communities and is supported by local businesses and institutions'. It follows on from the work already completed as part of the Corporate Plan 2016–2019 which included a focus on Stronger Communities as a priority to 'enable communities to support themselves'.
- 2.5 There was also a key recommendation from the LGA Corporate Peer Review in 2017 to strengthen the connection between City Leadership and Community Leadership at a neighbourhood level and to consider the changing role of Councillors.
- 2.6 The Community Governance Review in 2017 identified the desire for the community to become more involved in the co-production and delivery within their local community and it supported the challenge Lord Adebawale gave organisations within the City at the Residents at the Wheel Conference in March 2018, to consider their role in service redesign, 'can/should you: lead the change, follow the change or get out of the way.'
- 2.7 There is further evidence to support this initiative following the publication of "Neighbourhood Services – What matters to people on the doorstep!" by the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) in December 2018. Their findings showed that the public value neighbourhood services and they called upon councils to adopt a strategy in support of neighbourhood level services, this pilot supports this approach.

3.0 Progress

- 3.1 During this time Wolverhampton for Everyone was established as a new way of working, developed in partnership with the Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council. The key partners include: Gatis Community Space; All Saints Action Network (ASAN); Bromford; University of Wolverhampton; Black Country Touring; Ashmore Park Hub; Creative Black Country and Hope Community. Wolverhampton for Everyone supports local people to unlock potential within their communities and create positive change within the City. Wolverhampton for Everyone believes that our City will be more vibrant and inclusive if it is powered by people, working together inclusively, who live and work here.
- 3.2 As an existing partner of Wolverhampton for Everyone the Council will aim to embrace the different ways of working and support an interconnected network to contribute to the social values of the partnership and put citizens at the heart of solutions.
- 3.3 Wolverhampton for Everyone is key to delivering Vision 2030 and will be embedded throughout the new Council Plan 2019–2024, to deliver the key outcome - 'Wulfrunians will live longer, healthier and more fulfilling lives'. This approach will provide opportunities to co-design and co-produce, developing the long-term resilience and capacity of our communities, as we continue to manage growing financial pressures.
- 3.4 One of the proposed initiatives to support Wolverhampton for Everyone is to introduce a Ward Fund of £10,000 available for each ward as part of a one-year initial pilot. The £200,000 allocation will be funded from the Public Health grant income. Funding will be available from May 2019 to May 2020 (the final application for spend will be made at the beginning of February 2020 and all activity will need to be completed by the beginning of March 2020). In order to evaluate the initiative, there will be a full impact assessment to establish the outcomes delivered for the community and to inform whether this fund is available in future years. The recommendations of which will be reported to Cabinet.
- 3.5 This will enable ward Councillors in partnership with their communities to prioritise and target local issues, many of which were identified during the Managing Director's ward walks. Consistent with our aspiration to co-design and co-produce, developing the long-term resilience and capacity of our communities.
- 3.6 Director Ward Champions (Appendix 1) have been identified within the current Senior Leadership structure of the Council to act as budget managers for the ward funds. They are:
- John Denley - Director of Public Health (Graiseley, Heath Town, Park and St Peter's);
 - Kate Martin - Director of City Housing (Bushbury South and Low Hill, East Park, Wednesfield North and Wednesfield South);
 - Meredith Teasdale - Director of Education (Merry Hill, Penn, Tettenhall Regis and Tettenhall Wightwick);

- Richard Lawrence - Director of Regeneration (Bilston East, Bilston North, Ettingshall and Spring Vale);
- Ross Cook - Director of City Environment (Blakenhall, Bushbury North, Fallings Park and Oxley).

- 3.7 The Director Ward Champions will work with ward Councillors to implement their preferred model for managing the 'ward funds'. This will be either via the ward Councillors or devolve the funding to a Community Partnership / appropriate organisation, for example a Community Partnership group / organisation, in consultation with the Director Ward Champion.
- 3.8 The Director Ward Campions will be responsible for agreeing arrangements to release the funding and these will be recorded/published and closely monitored. They will support links between agreeing priorities and delivering actions.
- 3.9 Full details of proposals, commitments and actual expenditure of all ward funds and how the funds have been utilised will be made available on the Council's website.
- 3.10 The funding will provide the opportunity to exploit other opportunities such as Crowdfund Wolves, Make Shift, pooling of funding across wards etc.
- 3.11 All ward funds used will be for a "one off" activity and will not include any ongoing maintenance, insurance or repair costs.

4.0 Governance

- 4.1 The proposed Governance structure (Appendix 2) takes into consideration the following points:
- What the fund can and cannot be used for;
 - Outlines the procedure for administration and logistics to include the option to devolve the funds to a community organisation;
 - Transparency measures;
 - Monitoring.
- 4.2 All governance arrangements once approved will be written into the constitution and a set of guidelines will be written for the role of the Director Ward Champion.
- 4.3 The following assumptions have been made:
- The procurement of any services, supplies or works shall be undertaken in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules. Where the Council has an existing contract that is suitable to source the services, supplies or works required, this should be used.

- 4.4 An application form will be used to ensure the following are considered for each activity:
- Any requests made for ongoing maintenance, insurance and repair costs of the activity requested;
 - Successful groups/organisations must ensure that DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks carried out on all adults having direct supervisory contact with any children under the age of 18 through the project;
 - Successful groups/organisations must serve all appropriate licences and insurances;
 - The project will promote good equal opportunity practice;
 - All ward fund activity will need to bear the City of Wolverhampton / Wolverhampton for Everyone / Partner logo (s) in all publications;
 - The ward funds must be spent in accordance with the purposes for which it was approved. Any changes to the activity should be agreed with the ward Councillors and Director Ward Champions.

5.0 Reporting mechanisms

- 5.1 The evaluation of the pilot will require the establishment of a reporting mechanism to capture the outcomes and impact of the ward funds. This will include a Director Ward Champion update on a quarterly basis to Strategic Executive Board and an overall final report to Cabinet in April 2020 (deadline for applications will be beginning of February 2020, with all activity to be complete before the beginning of March 2020).
- 5.2 One outcome of the evaluation will be to determine whether the ward funds will be available in future years.

6.0 Evaluation of alternative options

- 6.1 Option 1 - no change to existing process and policy.
- 6.2 This would result in a missed opportunity to co-produce and co-design solutions at local level which will support the empowerment of communities.
- 6.3 Option 2 – Approve the Ward Funds on an ongoing basis
- 6.4 This is not preferred at this stage. This is a pilot and full review and assessment of impact must be made when the one-year period has lapsed. This will include a full review of the benefits it has achieved within the wards and possible savings to the Council as well as the internal logistics and governance arrangements.

7.0 Reasons for decisions

- 7.1 Wolverhampton for Everyone Partnership and Ward Funds will allow the ward Councillors to further establish their every changing role within the community. The benefit of this action will allow communities with support from their ward Councillors to

create a culture of change, to build resilience and find solutions to their issues on a local level.

- 7.2 This will help support the work of Wolverhampton for Everyone and contribute to the creation of a participatory City and further support the values of “people working together on practical ideas that make their neighbourhoods more exciting and enjoyable places to live.”
- 7.3 This will build resilience within the communities in all wards to provide solutions to small local issues at pace. This in time, will lead to a reduction in demand for services.

8.0 Financial implications

- 8.1 The £200,000 required for the twenty individual Ward Funds for the initial pilot scheme and the £25,000 to establish a post to provide management and administrative support will be met from Public Health grant income. The same funding source will also cover the proposed £50,000 contribution to the Wolverhampton for Everyone Partnership. Any financial implications arising from recommendations following a full impact assessment of the pilot scheme will be assessed at that point and incorporated in future reports to Councillors.

[GE/29032019/M]

9.0 Legal implications

- 9.1 If Ward Funds are used for the procurement of any goods or services, the procurement will need to be carried out in accordance with any relevant legislation and the Council's Constitution.

[TS/01042019/W]

10.0 Equalities implications

- 10.1 A full equality analysis has been carried out and ward funds are available for all within the community as long as there is a clear identification that it will benefit the wider community and reviewed in an equal and transparent way.

11.0 Environmental implications

- 11.1 City Environment was identified as one of the top five ward walk issues and common trends. Therefore, Environmental implications will need to be considered during the identification of projects/initiatives for the ward funds.

12.0 Human resources implications

- 12.1 It might be necessary during this pilot, to require the employment of temporary resources to manage and administer the Ward Funds. This will be managed through our normal recruitment processes and procedures.

[HR/AP/MT/078]

13.0 Corporate landlord implications

- 13.1 Corporate Landlord was identified as one of the top five ward walk issues and common trends. Therefore, corporation landlord implications will need to be considered during the identification of projects/initiatives for the ward funds, particularly relating to community assets.

14.0 Health and Wellbeing Implications

- 14.1 By supporting local people to co-design and co-produce small scale activities to improve the conditions where they live the ward funds initiative, in partnership the Director Ward Champions model, has the potential to help communities address health inequalities related to their wider environment. As part of the Impact Assessment consideration will be given to how activities have improved health and wellbeing of local people and this learning used to inform the development of future activity

15.0 Appendices

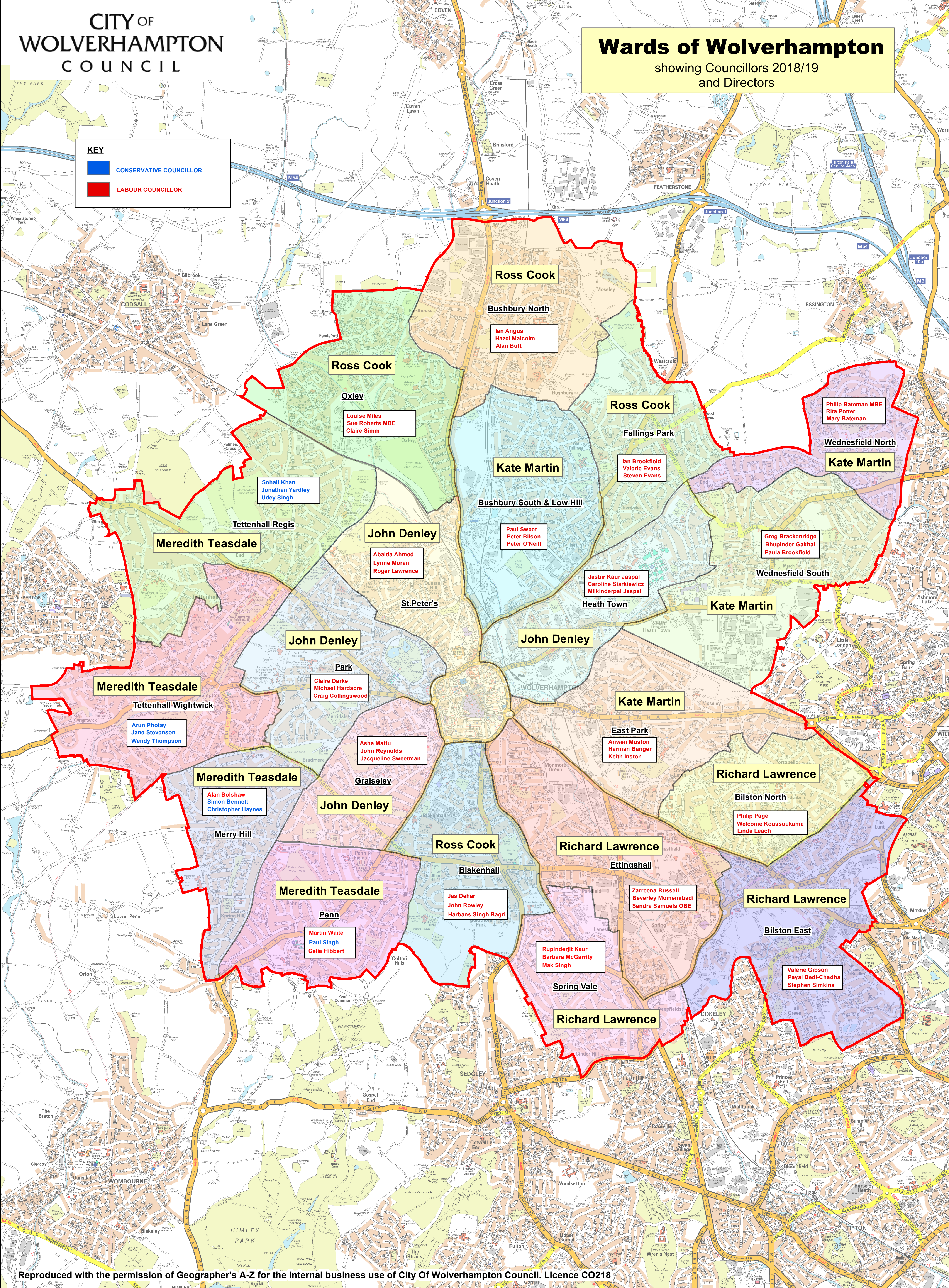
Appendix 1 – AZ Wards in Colour_Councillor 2019

Appendix 2 – Ward Funds Guidance

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KEY

- CONSERVATIVE COUNCILLOR
- LABOUR COUNCILLOR



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Ward Funding

1.0. Background

As a result of a number of commonly encountered issues affecting residents within every ward in the City of Wolverhampton, it is proposed to establish Ward Funds (the “Fund”), in each Ward, to be applied for the benefit of its residents. This proposal would also strengthen community relationships together with supporting Councillors to work with the community to resolve local issues.

A Fund of £10,000 is allocated to each ward within Wolverhampton and is available to be spent by the Councillors of each ward in the manner appearing below. The Fund must be spent by 1st March each year. The Fund will not be available from the 1st March until after the Annual Council in any year. Any unspent amounts will not be available or carried forward after this date. The Fund will run from May 2019 to May 2020.

The Fund can also be given to a community organisation subject to the approval of the relevant Director Ward Champion and the agreement of all the ward Councillors.

2.0. What can the Fund be used for?

The Fund can be utilised to support ward projects, activities or to address issues which would then benefit the local community. Examples of appropriate use of funding may include the purchase of a bench to be placed in a public space, or purchase of gates to deter fly tipping in an area of public space.

Councillors must ensure:

- The use of the Fund will comply with relevant legislation and does not support any unethical purpose or conduct;
- Provide accurate records in respect of the use of the Fund;
- The Fund is used in accordance with the Best Value Principles;
- Agreement of all Ward Councillors is reached for all funds. In the event all Ward Councillors do not agree there will be a referral to the Director Ward Champion to resolve and;
- The Code of Conduct for Members is always adhered to including disclosing pecuniary interests when seeking access to or use of the Fund.

3.0. What the Fund cannot be used for?

Where a Councillor has a disclosable interest in a proposal which utilises the Fund, that interest must be disclosed to the Monitoring Officer at the earliest possible opportunity.

Councillors must ensure that the Fund:

- Is not used for political purposes or publicity which supports a political purpose;

- does not provide financial support to any business, or supports the start-up cost of any business, and that any organisation in receipt of monies from the Fund does not become dependent upon the funding;
- does not provide financial support to any individuals or privately-owned business, who are experiencing financial difficulties;
- does not discriminate against any individual or organisation;
- is not used for personal use or to gain personal assets and;
- is not sought or distributed during the pre-election period (Purdah).

4.0. Procedure

The process for utilising the Fund is shown in the Flowchart below. Once a use for the Fund has been identified by a Councillor(s), the Councillor should then consult with the relevant Director Ward Champion who may attribute costs towards the use. An application form for the Fund will need to be completed by the Councillor and approved by the Director Ward Champion. Once approval has been given the Funding will then be released and the Monitoring Officer will be notified.

The procurement of any services, supplies or works shall be undertaken in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules. Where the Council has an existing contract that is suitable to source the services, supplies or works required, this should be used.

Councillors may be able to pool together the Fund for more than one Ward providing that the purpose of the Fund benefits all the Wards whose Fund has been pooled. A joint application form will need to be submitted.

5.0. Transparency

Full details of proposals, commitments and actual expenditure by a Councillor and how the Fund has been utilised will be made available on the Council's website.

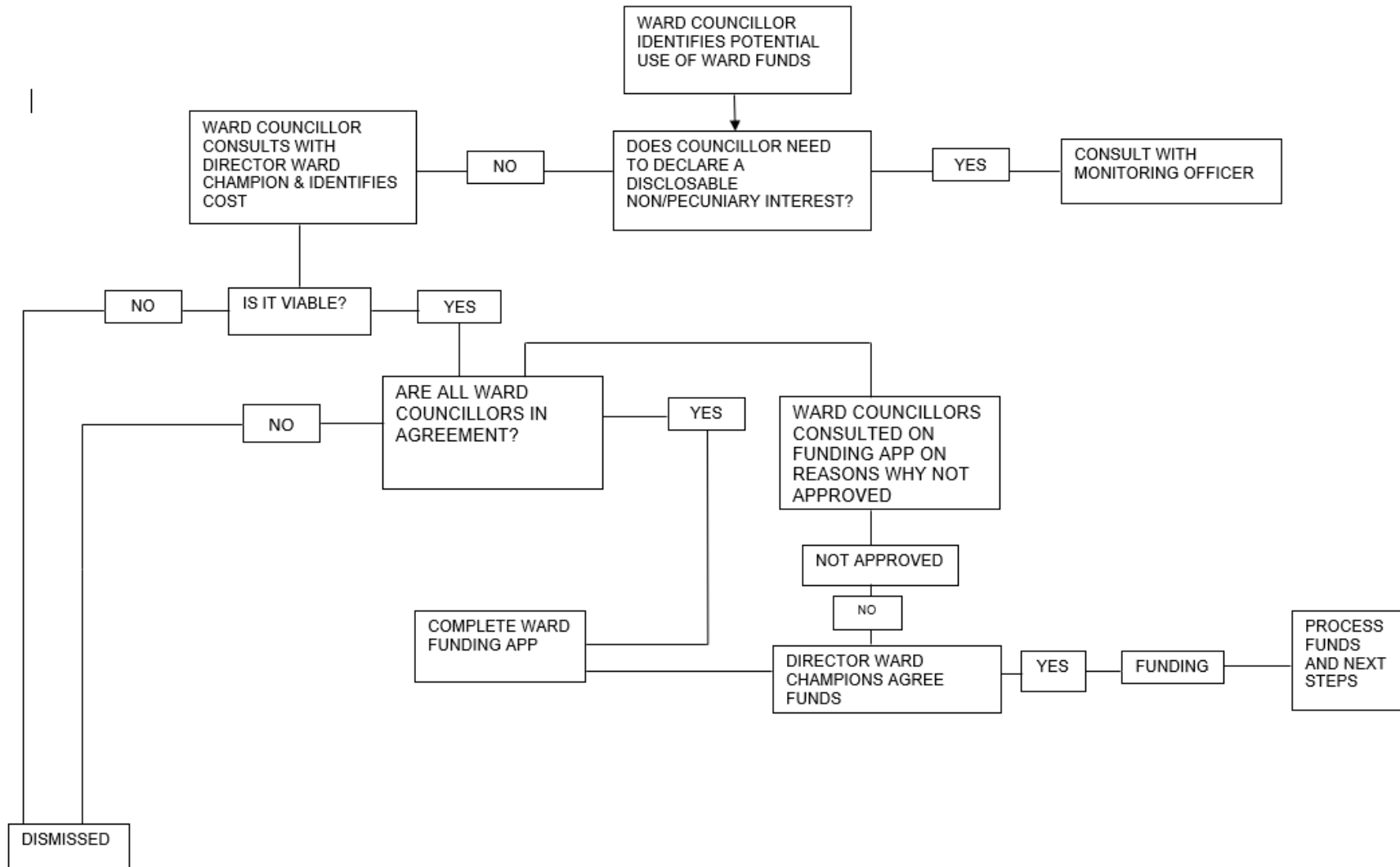
6.0. Monitoring

It is the responsibility of each Councillor to provide receipts and keep accurate records and provide these to the Council. The Fund maybe subject to periodic inspections by the Council's internal audit team to ensure funds are appropriately accounted for and utilised in accordance with the spirit of the funding. The Monitoring Officer will also receive quarterly reports to monitor how funding is used.

7.0 Further information

For all enquiries regarding the use of the Fund please contact Elpida Griffiths on 01902 552 171 or email Elpida.Griffiths@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Ward Councillors Flowchart



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CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Cabinet 10 April 2019
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Report title	Westside Link Public Realm Proposals – Outcome of Consultation for Phases 1 and 2 and Potential Delivery Programme for Phase 1	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Steve Evans, City Environment Councillor John Reynolds, City Economy	
Key decision	Yes	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	St Peter's	
Accountable Director	Ross Cook, Service Director of City Environment	
Originating service	City Development	
Accountable employee	Ruth Taylor Tel Email	Senior Regeneration Officer 01902 555635 ruth.taylor@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	City Environment Leadership Team Regeneration Leadership Team	11 March 2019 02 April 2019

Recommendations for decision:

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Approve development phase funding as outlined in section 6 of the report for all phases of the Westside Link Project, to construction design stage and Early Contractor Involvement.
2. Approve submission of a Full Business Case for Phase 1 to the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership, West Midlands Combined Authority and/or Central Government for potential funding opportunities.

Recommendation for noting:

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Note the outcome of the public and stakeholder consultation and responses provided to address the issues raised.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The report outlines the outcome of the public and stakeholder consultation process carried out on phases 1 and 2 of the Westside Link proposal, which took place in November and December 2018.
- 1.2 It also sets out the recommended delivery phasing of the project for Cabinet approval.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Westside Link project is a transformational public realm scheme designed to repurpose Wolverhampton City Centre by creating a high quality pedestrian environment, improved pedestrian and cycling connectivity within the city core and creation of new public spaces capable of hosting large scale events and activities in support of the “Events City” concept. The strategic objective of the project is to reinvigorate and drive economic investment into the City Centre by increasing footfall and visitor spend.
- 2.2 On a recent visit to the city national retail guru Bill Grimsey observed the vulnerability of the City Centre to the closure of national high street retailers and banks. He noted that the trading performance of the two main indoor malls is weak, with the Mander Centre yet to completely fill vacant units despite its relatively recent major refurbishment. The potential loss of Beatties department store, and increasing levels of voids in the area around Victoria Street, could leave the City Centre facing a further downward spiral of declining footfall and lack of confidence to invest, unless there is action to aid it’s recovery. The Westside Link project is rooted in a need for the Council to intervene to ensure the City has a viable centre for the future, offering a diverse opportunity for activities and events to create the attraction to increase footfall and visitor spend.
- 2.3 As part of the formulation of the business case for the development of the Westside Link project, an economic appraisal was commissioned from leading economic advisors Regeneris, who recognised that without a thriving City Centre, these aspiration and advantages will be challenged and undermined. Wolverhampton City Centre has been in a state of steady decline for a number of years, and there are challenges preventing the City from reaching its aspirations that the Westside Link Scheme can directly help address. They identify that there is a strong and accepted market failure case for investing in the public realm. The private sector has little incentive to invest in the public realm, as there can be no direct financial return. Intervention by the public sector is therefore required in order to ensure an effective supply of good quality public space to facilitate the growth of diverse sectors of activity within the City Centre that will in turn directly improve its economic positioning.
- 2.4 A transformational City Centre focused investment scheme in the public realm, such as the Westside Link, is much needed. It will play an important role in tying the city’s planned regeneration investments together. It will improve the image and perception of the City Centre, increase the number of visitors, encourage private sector investment,

and ultimately contribute towards delivering economic regeneration and a revival of the City Centre.

- 2.5 Following the completion of the concept plans for the Westside Link project and member endorsement to consult in September, engagement with the public, businesses and stakeholders on the project began in October 2018. During this period of time extensive engagement has been undertaken with a variety of specific interest groups including taxis, disabled groups, Wolverhampton BID, cycle forum, Transport for the West Midlands, Bus operators, Wolverhampton Youth Council, all affected businesses and St Peters Church.
- 2.6 Whilst the public consultation has now concluded ongoing engagement with key stakeholders continues as the plans for the development evolve.

3.0 Outcome of the Consultation on phases 1 and 2

Businesses and stakeholders

- 3.1 The public, businesses and stakeholders were consulted over a period of 8 weeks during October and November 2018.
- 3.2 The majority of the City's stakeholders are very much in support of the project and understand the wider economic benefits which will transpire. Letters of support have been received from major landlords and investors Hortons Estates, Benson Elliott and Urban and Civic who have indicated that the delivery of the Westside Link proposals will have a direct and significant impact on their future economic activity within the City centre. Other major partners including Wolverhampton BID and the Grand Theatre have also shown commitment to endorse and champion the project. Through the Connected Places Stakeholder Group both the University of Wolverhampton and Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club have added their strong support for the proposals.
- 3.3 All businesses directly affected by the proposals have been contacted on an individual basis. Through these one-to-one meetings, most businesses offered their support for the proposals subject to adequate access arrangements being retained. Most understood that 'do nothing' was not an option in an increasingly challenging retail environment and saw significant benefits in an enhanced events programme in the City Centre. A small number of independent businesses added that they would be considering expansion of their business or premises should the proposals go ahead.
- 3.4 Responses were received through face to face engagement and through the receipt of feedback forms distributed to all businesses in the affected area.
- 3.5 By the completion of the consultation period 230 written responses were received from the public with 51% indicating that they were not in favour of the scheme and 49% in favour. In addition, two petitions were received. One from the congregation of St Peters Church and one led by a trader in Lichfield Street. The objections raised focussed on two main issues and were directly related to the delivery of phase 2 (Queen Square / Lichfield

Street). There were no direct objections raised to the removal of buses from Victoria Street (Phase 1).

Objection	Proposed Response
Loss of bus access and stops along Lichfield Street, Darlington Street and Queen Square would lead to a reduction in accessibility into the city centre, especially for the less mobile	The project team have modelled each individual affected bus route to understand the alterations required to the route, additional travel times and the relocation of bus stops. In summary the alternative bus stops will add an additional 2 minutes onto bus journey times and result in an additional maximum 3 minute walk for an average able bodied passenger. The project team are currently working closely with Transport for West Midlands and National Express to alleviate any issues around bus rerouting.
Loss of disabled parking	Any loss of disabled parking will be minimised with most affected bays being reprovided within the city centre close to current and proposed amenities and destinations.

- 3.6 Of those who welcomed the scheme most were positive about the opportunities that the creation of new events spaces and improved public realm will bring to the City Centre, and many people recognised that greater footfall in the city would have a positive effect on improving the economic positioning of the city centre.

Youth Council

- 3.7 During the consultation with the public, the project team were very conscious that despite every effort to engage with all sectors of the community through a variety of means including social media, the majority of the respondents were older members of the community who had specific concerns with accessibility. As a consequence, some targeted consultation was undertaken with groups representing the young people within the City during national “Take over day” on 23 November 2018. At the event the Youth Council and associated youth organisations received a presentation on the Westside Link scheme and at the conclusion of a debate on the project were asked to comment on whether they supported the project. There was overwhelming support (90%) for the project with most of the young people considering that the project will bring in more people, improve the City Centre as a place for activity, leisure and entertainment and that the consequence would be that more businesses would locate in the City Centre due to increased footfall. Most of the young people said that they currently go outside the City Centre for leisure and entertainment activities, however 90% of them said that if Westside Link was to go ahead and more events took place in the improved squares and spaces they would visit the City Centre more often.

Express and Star poll

- 3.8 In addition to this consultation process, the Express and Star held an independent survey of its readers to assess support or otherwise for the proposals. At its conclusion, the newspaper reported that 54% were in favour of the scheme. This is despite the poll being embedded within the context of a negative piece focussing on the concerns of one business owner.

Transport for West Midlands and National Express

- 3.9 Both Transport for West Midlands (TfWM) and National Express (NX) were consulted as part of the original work for the Connected Places Strategy. Feedback on the Strategy from both parties during this time was very encouraging and they recognised that in order to support the regeneration and healthy living agendas, the projects initially identified within the Strategy Delivery Plan would need to be delivered. Initial concept ideas around removing traffic from the core area of the City to improve the pedestrian experience and connectivity was agreed as a priority to achieve the outcomes of the strategy.
- 3.10 TfWM were engaged from the onset as the concept plans for Westside Link were developed and were seen as the “broker” for conversations with all of the bus operators in the city. A series of meetings were undertaken with TfWM between February and December of last year, during which time detailed modelling of all of the affected routes were discussed, options evaluated and opportunities presented for them to comment. Meetings were then held with NX, other bus operators in the City and TfWM to discuss individual routings and necessary enabling works.
- 3.11 Despite detailed mitigation discussions, NX remain concerned about the effect on timetabling and the distance passengers would have to walk to relocated bus stops as a result of the development of the Queen Square phase. In particular, they were concerned about the effect that this may have on patronage and marginally viable routes. Both NX and TfWM acknowledged, however, that the Victoria Street phase had significantly less effect on overall bus services and patronage, and that changes to bus routing could be accommodated. The proposed effect on bus routes and stops for the Victoria Street phase is shown in Appendix 2.

St Peters Church

- 3.12 As part of the consultation on the Westside Link proposals, engagement with the Reverend, volunteers and congregation of St Peter’s Church has been extensive. A series of meetings between September 2018 and January 2019 has allowed the project team to understand the detail of the objections voiced by the ‘Church’ in respect of the scheme.
- 3.13 As part of the consultation responses 28 letters of objection were received from the congregation as well as a 147 name petition. The objections raised only related to the delivery of the phase 2 element of the scheme. The objections and proposed responses are summarised below;

Objection	Proposed response
<p>Removal of the ability for volunteers to park within the church gates which has an access off Lich Gates during the week. Six of these volunteers are identified as having a Blue Badge.</p>	<p>6 new disabled spaces have been included in the scheme along Wulfruna Street providing level access along St Peters Close and Lichfield Street into Lich Gates.</p> <p>All disabled parking bays will be retained in Cheapside, allowing disabled volunteers and parishioners level access to St Peters House and the church via Exchange Street and Lich Gates.</p> <p>Some volunteers currently park within the church gates. Consideration is being given to the possibility of permit parking within nearby Council car parks to help reprovide this facility.</p>
<p>Inability of maintenance/ delivery vehicles to access the church during the day</p>	<p>All maintenance and delivery vehicles will be afforded access into Lichfield Street and Lich Gates during an approved service access period in the morning and early evening as currently exists in Dudley Street. Emergency repairs will be managed and accommodated as necessary.</p>
<p>Inability of volunteers to afford to pay for parking in the nearby city centre car parks</p>	<p>The church already has some permit parking in the Civic Centre car parks and the possibility to increase this number is currently being considered.</p>
<p>Access to the church for disabled parishioners and visitors for events and services with the removal of the 4 disabled bays in Lich Gates.</p>	<p>As above.</p>
<p>Access to Lich Gates for funeral and wedding cars.</p>	<p>Access for formal funeral and wedding vehicles will be managed by prior arrangement. There is only likely to amount to less than 10 events per year.</p>

- 3.14 The Council's responses to the issues raised by the Church have been articulated back to the congregation, however there still remains a concern that the distance from the disabled bays to the church door is too far for their disabled volunteers and parishioners to travel.

4.0 Evaluation of alternative options

- 4.1 The consultation on the project involved only the Victoria Street phase (Phase 1 -Victoria Street, Salop Street, School Street, and Skinner Street) and Queens Square phase (Phase 2 -Lichfield Street and Queen Square) of the project. Following assessment of the responses it was clear that the Victoria Street phase was deliverable in its entirety without significant issues to resolve in terms of bus relocation, access, and servicing.
- 4.2 The Queens Square Phase however, as evidenced above, does pose issues that have not yet been resolved. Further work is required to produce options which will help mitigate against negative effects identified.
- 4.3 At this stage phase 3, Civic Halls has not been consulted on.
- 4.4 The options put forward are;

Option 1	Issues / compromises
Retention of a one way, west bound bus lane along Lichfield Street and Queen Square. This option would only include the minimum enabling works required in order to realign the highway. This is the preferred approach put forward by TfWM and NX	<p>By retaining a westbound bus only lane, the volume and frequency of traffic will be significantly reduced and bus stops and routes will remain unchanged in one direction. The benefits anticipated from the creation of a much improved pedestrian only events space of considerable scale however, will be significantly diminished. The high quality new features and materials which form part of the full scheme will not be implemented due to value for money considerations and requirements around retaining a carriageway. There are concerns about pedestrian safety with this option and objectives around hostile vehicle mitigation cannot be achieved should traffic be retained through the square.</p> <p>It would need to be determined if an appropriate regulatory mechanism for effectively enforcing the necessary restrictions could be implemented.</p>
Option 2	
Implementation of the full scheme as proposed in the consultation. Creating a fully pedestrianised Lichfield Street (West) and Queen Square and retention of one way	This option will provide a significantly improved and extended civic square with new water feature and events spaces. Pedestrian safety will be improved through a series of hostile vehicle mitigation

<p>traffic, westbound in Darlington Street.</p>	<p>interventions. This option will assist in the development of the Events City concept which will ultimately increase visitor numbers and support the growth of the city's visitor economy. Compromises however need to be made in respect of bus stop relocations and rerouting resulting in slightly longer journey times and walking distances to destinations. These issues can be mitigated against as far as possible through detailed careful design and location of street furniture and layout. Access to St Peters Church will be restricted to official vehicles only.</p> <p>It would need to be determined if an appropriate regulatory mechanism for effectively enforcing the necessary restrictions could be implemented.</p>
<p>Option 3</p>	
<p>Do nothing</p>	<p>As stated above, do nothing is not an option. It is widely acknowledged by key stakeholders, investors, local businesses and the public that the city needs to refocus and repurpose itself to uses and activities that are not reliant on retail. The events city concept is at the heart of the rationale for the implementation of the project.</p>

5.0 Reasons for decision

5.1 All of the options relating to the two phases have been evaluated by the project team and the following recommendations have been made;

- Victoria Street, phase 1 (including Salop Street, School Street and Skinner Street) – This phase has now been designed up to Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) stage 3 detailed design and is ready to move into the construction design stage and early contractor involvement immediately after Cabinet, subject to approval and securing funding. Construction could start on site for this phase in September 2019 should external capital funding be secured. This phase has an 18 month build programme. Urban and Civic, developers of Westside, have stated that early delivery of this phase will have significant impact on the success of the development and is paramount to the integration of Westside into the city centre core.

- Queen Square, phase 2 – The options identified in paragraph 4.3 above have been fully evaluated and it is recommended that further work is needed to design option 1 (above) and understand the implications to the wider network and budgetary requirements. It is recommended that, until this option has been fully evaluated and brought back to members for approval, no further work is undertaken on developing phase 2 through the next design stages. It is also proposed that the project is brought before a joint Scrutiny Panel in June 2019.
- 5.2 Phase 3, which incorporates North Street, Red Lion Street and adjoining streets around the Civic Halls, was initially intended to be brought forward at a later date and was not part of the initial round of consultation completed recently and is currently at the concept design stage. However, to ensure alignment of works with the other capital works projects, phase 3 is being brought forward to ensure the programme of works for both this scheme and the Civic Halls refurbishment programme can be delivered through a coordinated approach. The programme for the Civic Halls refurbishment project has now been established and there is a clearer understanding of the timeline required for the design and delivery of the Westside Link phase 3 scheme. Progressing the stage 3 design will be a priority over the next three months in order to establish the delivery programme and costs.
- 5.3 This phase will create a much improved customer experience around the Halls and will provide a safer, usable events area in front of both entrances. The inclusion of anti-terrorism measures around the halls including pedestrian protection is of course an important aspect. Much work has yet to be undertaken to understand the operational requirements of the Halls and the surrounding occupiers before detailed design can be completed, however, given the timeline for the opening of the venue it is important that this work is carried out by the design team as soon as possible in order to achieve a coordinated delivery timeline. It is therefore recommended that the phase 3 design stage of the scheme is undertaken at the same time as the construction design and delivery of the Victoria Street phase.

6.0 Financial implications

- 6.1 To date a budget of £421,000 has funded the design stages 1 to 3 for Phase 1 - Victoria Street and Phase 2 - Queen Square. This budget was resourced from the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership (BCLEP) Access to Growth Fund totalling £205,000 and supplemented by an allocation of £116,000 from the Highways Management Reserve and £100,000 from the Regeneration Reserve. This budget will be fully spent by 1 April 2019 therefore to continue to progress further funding is required until capital budgets can be approved.
- 6.2 Applications for grant funding are currently being sought for the delivery of Phase 1 - Victoria Street with a full business case is due to be submitted to the BCLEP in the next month. The projected costs for the remaining design, development and delivery of this phase are estimated to be £7 million, which includes professional fees for stages 4 to 7.

The application will cover the full anticipated cost of the scheme; therefore, costs incurred in 2019-2020 for this phase could be capitalised against the grant, subject to a successful application.

- 6.3 An application for the Governments Future High Streets fund has also been submitted. The intention is that this funding will support early project initiation phases of a range of schemes and the wider capital bid may provide a financial contribution to the Westside link project, however at this stage this cannot be confirmed.
- 6.4 In the meantime, the Council will need to underwrite the costs in advance of any grant approval to avoid delays in the delivery of the scheme and to ensure continuity for the design team. It is anticipated that costs incurred in 2019-2020 relating to Phase 1 will be £157,000 as detailed in the table below, will be capitalised once grant funding has been awarded.
- 6.5 In addition, the development of the phase 3, requires some up front funding in order to progress the designs to stage 3, so that costs can be established for a further bid for external funding. Advance design on this phase is a priority in order to ensure a coordinated delivery programme for the Westside Link scheme and Civic Halls development project.
- 6.6 Listed below are the currently identified estimated funding requirements for the design and project management fees for 2019-2020. It is anticipated that some of this cost can be capitalised and construction costs will form part of the external funding bids and are therefore not part of this current budget requirement.

Phase	Description of expenditure required	£'000
Phase 1 Victoria Street	Technical design / Project management / Early contractor engagement	157
	Additional surveys	55
Phase 2 Queen Square	Options modelling and project management	40
Phase 3	Stage 3 (detailed design) / Project management	40
Total		292

- 6.7 It is proposed that a total budget of £200,000 is allocated equally from the Highways Management and Regeneration Reserves with an understanding that where costs can be capitalised they will be, thereby reducing the requirement to draw down from the reserve.
- 6.8 This budget will ensure that design, survey and management fees are covered to the end of the stage 4 design and early contractor involvement has been undertaken for phase 1. It will also cover fees for detailed designs and costings for phase 3. In terms of the programme this will cover work up to early July 2019 when it is anticipated that external funding will be secured.

- 6.9 The capital funding proposals for delivery of the various phases of the Westside link project will be subject to further reports.

[HM/01042019/S]

7.0 Legal implications

- 7.1 Any highway improvement project that is subsequently approved for implementation will also require Traffic Regulation Orders. Any Orders for the control of traffic and parking will be the subject to statutory legal procedures and further public consultation.

- 7.2 Authorisation has already been given to the advertising of Traffic Regulation Orders related to the scheme and authority delegated to the Cabinet Member for City Environment to approve the sealing and implementation of the Orders subject to the appropriate approvals being in place.

- 7.3 If any works or services are required, they will need to be procured in accordance with the Council's Constitution and relevant legislation.

[TS/01032019/R]

8.0 Equalities implications

- 8.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment is currently being drawn up and is being informed by the outcome of the consultation exercise. Specific meetings are being held with individual interest groups to ensure that the design and implementation proposals provide appropriate measures to ensure accessibility for all.

9.0 Environmental implications

- 9.1 The project will significantly improve the public realm within the designated streets and will create an upgraded pedestrian and cycling environment. With the reduction and removal of traffic. The project will result in a significant improvement in air quality within the city centre.

10.0 Human resources implications

- 10.1 There are no human resource implications arising from this report.

11.0 Corporate landlord implications

- 11.1 There are no Corporate Landlord implications arising from this report.

12.0 Health and Wellbeing Implications

- 12.1 The Connected Places Strategy, which identified the Westside Link Project as an early project for development, plays an important role in the delivery of the Council's Health and Wellbeing agenda.

12.2 The project will create a vastly improved pedestrian environment designed to encourage a greater uptake of walking and cycling in the city centre. Whilst the removal of vehicles through the city core will also help significantly eliminate emissions.

13.0 Schedule of background papers

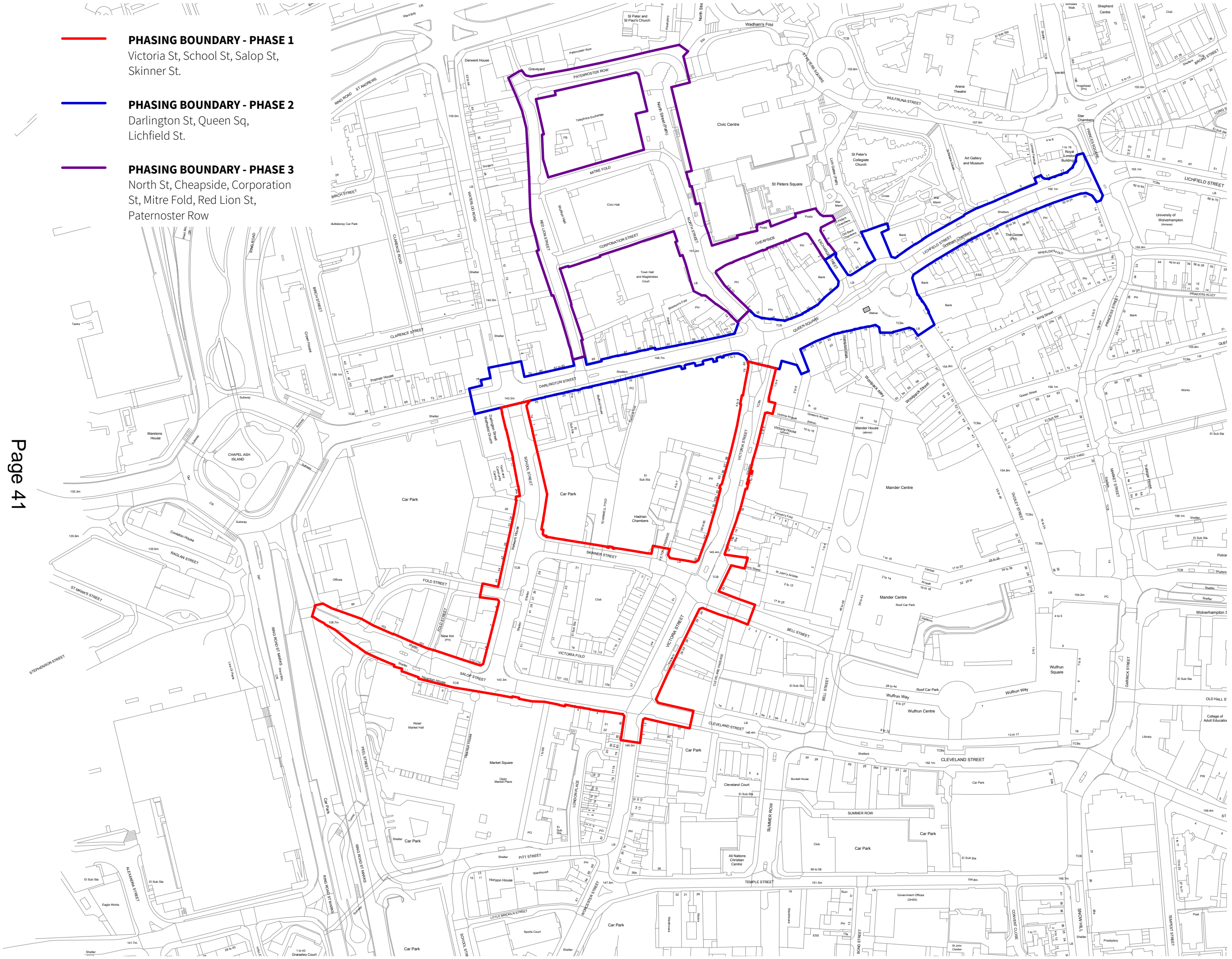
13.1 Cabinet (Resources) Panel, 6 November 2018 – [Westside Link Proposal Phases 1 and 2](#)

14.0 Appendices

Appendix 1 – Westside Link Phasing plan

Appendix 2 – Victoria Street phase – bus routing and stop locations

- **PHASING BOUNDARY - PHASE 1**
Victoria St, School St, Salop St,
Skinner St.
- **PHASING BOUNDARY - PHASE 2**
Darlington St, Queen Sq,
Lichfield St.
- **PHASING BOUNDARY - PHASE 3**
North St, Cheapside, Corporation
St, Mitre Fold, Red Lion St,
Paternoster Row



S1-P02 06-03-19 Phase 1 & 3 boundaries updated as requested by RT. FF RM

Revision	Date	Description	Drawn	Apprvd.

Planit I.E. Limited
 E: info@planit-ie.com W: planit-ie.com
MANCHESTER
 2 Back Grafton St, Altrincham, WA14 1DY
 T: 0161 928 9281
LONDON
 Unit 6 Waterside, 44-48 Wharf Road, London, N1 7UX
 T: 0207 253 5678
LIVERPOOL
 No. 8 Princes Parade, Princes Dock, Liverpool, L3 1DL
 T: 0151 705 6746

Client City of Wolverhampton Council

Project Wolverhampton Westside Link

Dwg Title Phasing Boundaries

Created on 05-03-19 Created by FF Approved by RM

Scale 1:2500 Size A3 Workstage STAGE 03

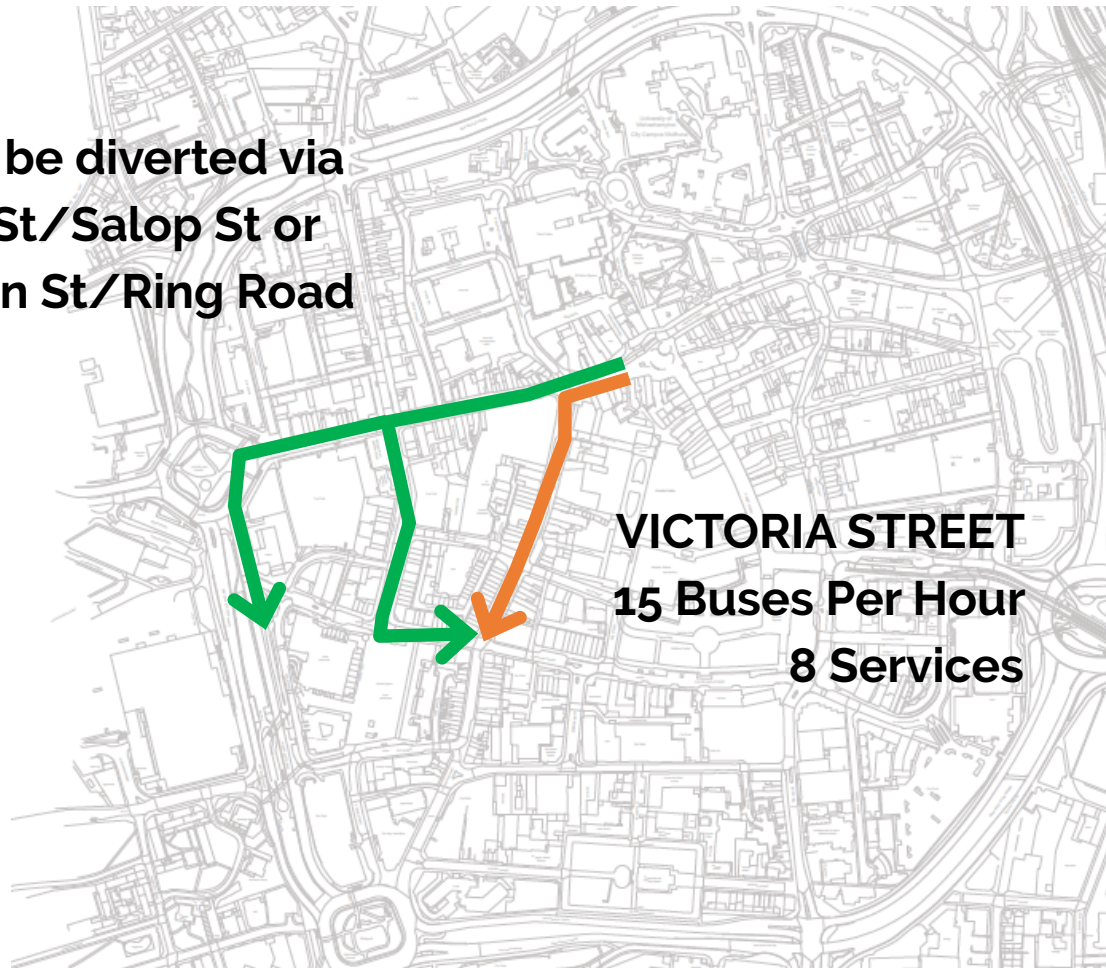
Dwg No. WLC-PLA-XX-XX-SK-L-0005 Suitability Revision S1 P02

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WOLVERHAMPTON WESTSIDE LINK – VICTORIA STREET WORKS

HOW BUSES WILL BE AFFECTED BY CLOSING VICTORIA STREET

Buses to be diverted via
School St/Salop St or
Darlington St/Ring Road



VICTORIA STREET
15 Buses Per Hour
8 Services

-  Existing Bus Routes
-  Proposed Bus Routes

WOLVERHAMPTON WESTSIDE LINK – VICTORIA STREET WORKS

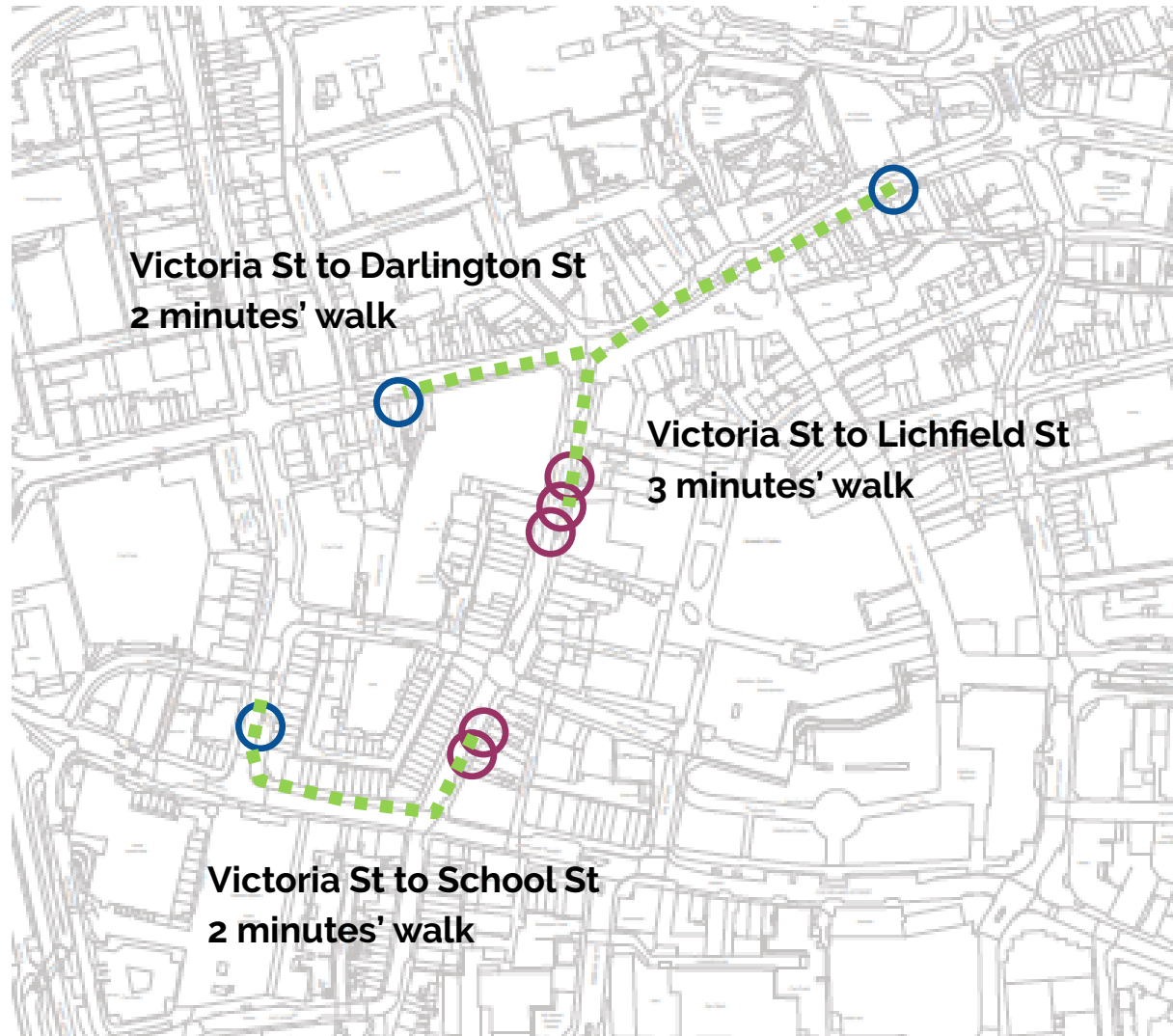
WALKING BETWEEN EXISTING & PROPOSED BUS STOPS

○ Existing Bus Stop

○ Alternative Bus Stops

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Walking Route



CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Cabinet 10 April 2019
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Report title	Tackling Interpersonal Violence and Abuse Including Violence against Women and Girls Strategy 2019-2022	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Hazel Malcolm Public Health and Wellbeing	
Key decision	Yes	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Accountable Director	John Denley, Director of Public Health	
Originating service	Community Safety	
Accountable employee	Lynsey Kelly	Head of Community Safety
	Tel	01902 550042
	Email	lynsey.kelly@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Adults and Safer City Scrutiny Panel	5 February 2019
	Public Health Leadership Team	12 March 2019
	Strategic Executive Board	26 March 2019
	Safer Wolverhampton Partnership Board	1 April 2019

Recommendation for decision:

The Cabinet is recommended to:

Endorse the Tackling Interpersonal Violence and Abuse Including Violence against Women and Girls Strategy 2019-2022.

1.0 Purpose

1.1 The Tackling Interpersonal Violence and Abuse Including Violence against Women and Girls Strategy 2019-2022 (IPV) has been approved by the Safer Wolverhampton Partnership Board. Cabinet are asked to endorse the Strategy and support its implementation.

2.0 Background

2.1 The current Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy will end in March 2019; as such the strategy has been refreshed and updated.

2.2 In line with the national Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy, IPV Strategy (Appendix 1) encompasses domestic violence, honour-based violence, forced marriage, female genital mutilation, sexual violence, however, includes the recently added issue of stalking and harassment.

2.3 The strategy acknowledges that the majority of victims are female but recognises that there are both male and female victims and perpetrators in heterosexual and same sex relationships. It also aims to address additional barriers which deter particular groups and communities from seeking help and support.

2.4 Significant progress has been made during the period of the previous strategy (2016-2019) across the strands of prevention, service provision, protection and justice, and performance and governance. These strands remain the cornerstones of the new strategy, as does the importance of effective partnership working and engagement with our communities.

2.5 Successes include:

- A consistent increase in reports of domestic abuse to Police, suggesting an increased confidence in reporting
- Year on year increases in successful outcomes for VAWG offences at court
- Increases in non-Police referrals of high-risk cases to the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC); increase to 37% (from 25% in 2015-2016)
- The work of Independent Domestic Violence Advisors has seen a reduction in repeat cases at MARAC.

2.6 Delivery against the VAWG strategy is directly aligned with the Council's Corporate Plan, where it contributes to both the Keeping the City Safe and the Safeguarding People in Vulnerable Situations priorities. In addition to the corporate commitment, delivery will be partnership based, and has the full support of both adults and children's safeguarding boards.

2.7 Since April 2011, SWP has been required to undertake Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) for every domestic violence related death occurring in the city, a number of which have attracted media interest. The strategy directly supports implementation of recommendations from the city's DHRs, serious case reviews (SCRs) and safeguarding adult reviews, enabling partners to evidence the proactive approach taken in response to review findings. SWP remains committed to ensuring that any learning from DHRs and

SCRs is effectively disseminated across the partnership and works collaboratively with the Safeguarding Boards in doing this.

3.0 Tackling Interpersonal Violence and Abuse Including Violence against Women and Girls Strategy 2019-2022 - Overview

3.1 The Safer Wolverhampton Partnership (SWP) is the strategic lead for addressing VAWG in Wolverhampton. The Partnership is committed to:

- Addressing the root cause of VAWG
- Challenging perpetrators and holding them to account
- Alleviating the wide-ranging effects of all forms of VAWG on victims, survivors, their children and our communities.

3.2 The VAWG strategy name acknowledges the gendered nature of interpersonal violence; in that the majority of victims are female. However, it cannot be over-emphasised that the national and local strategies recognise that there are both female and male victims and perpetrators and therefore encompass work around women and girls, and also men and boys; this is reflected in the title of the refreshed strategy.

3.3 The VAWG strategy covers six key themes: Domestic Abuse (DA), Sexual Violence (SV), Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Honour Based Violence (HBV), Forced Marriage (FM) and Stalking and Harassment.

3.4 These crimes are cross-cutting issues and there is a requirement to tackle them in partnership. Building on the significant progress made against previous strategies, partners continue to review their core operations, managing budgetary constraints against a backdrop of increasing demand. A greater collaborative effort is therefore needed in the commissioning and delivery of services to realise efficiencies, mitigate risk, address potential gaps in service, and shape new approaches. Data will also be reviewed regularly to identify any new forms of VAWG which require focus.

3.5 The analysis of current data has allowed the strategy document to outline each area of VAWG, provide data about the prevalence of reporting of the crime and summarise areas of early focus.

3.6 The strategy outlines the following key outcomes, and shorter-term objectives to deliver against these.

IPV Strategy Objectives	IPV Strategy Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase the early identification of and intervention with victims of VAWG• Build cross-agency skills and capability to provide effective VAWG advice and support services• Improve the criminal justice response to supporting victims of VAWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduce serious harm resulting from VAWG including homicide prevention• Reduce the prevalence of VAWG• Reduce the rate of repeat incidents for domestic violence• Increase the rate of reported VAWG offences brought to justice

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase the number of perpetrators and offenders managed to reduce risk	
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4.0 Model of Delivery

4.1 A multi-agency action plan will be developed to underpin the strategy and drive delivery. The accompanying model of delivery will be centred on:

Prevention: Raising awareness amongst practitioners, communities and other stakeholders, delivery of training, education and embedding improved practice as part of existing safeguarding responsibilities.

Provision, Protection & Justice: Focusing on victim safety, effective management of offenders, increasing the accountability of perpetrators and use of the full range of criminal and civil justice remedies.

Performance: Capturing performance data systematically, reviewing progress, disseminating learning and identifying best practice.

5.0 Summary of Consultation Responses and Strategy Revisions

5.1 A 12-week consultation on the strategy was launched on 17 Dec 2018 and ended on 12 March 2019 which sought input from stakeholders. As part of that consultation process, a presentation was delivered to Adults and Safer City Scrutiny Panel on 5 February 2019, outlining areas of focus for the VAWG strategy and prompting discussion; comments from Scrutiny Panel were noted and have been fed into the revised strategy. Comments were centred largely on aspects of delivery, and the overwhelming endorsement of Scrutiny Panel was secured.

5.2 The consultation was widely promoted with input actively sought from communities of interest, Councillors, communities and the faith sector. There is a significant level of support for the strategy from elected members, public sector partners, schools, voluntary and community sector organisations and residents. Group responses have included feedback from; Refugee Migrant Centre, St Georges Hub (male victims), The Fowler Centre, Resilience Group, CCG, Community Cohesion Forum a total of 144 responses have been received.

5.3 Comments have included:

- Aims and objectives easy to understand
- Welcomed the addition of stalking and harassment
- Focus on involving communities and religious settings in raising awareness and delivery of key messages was positive
- Change of title to be more inclusive (reflected in final version)
- Focus on delivery in education settings (reflected in final version)

6.0 Evaluation of alternative options

- 6.1 The VAWG Strategy 2016-2019 will expire on 31 March 2019. Alternative options included not refreshing the strategy or incorporating VAWG into the Violence and Exploitation Strategy.

7.0 Reasons for decision

- 7.1 Given the significant difference between VAWG and other violent crimes the decision was taken to refresh the VAWG strategy and keep it as a standalone strategy. The drivers behind the interpersonal violence associated with all crimes within the strategy have no relevance to the public place violence seen with youth, weapon-related crimes.
- 7.2 Not refreshing the strategy may have prevented the Council from fulfilling its legal requirements detailed in section 9.0 and cause reputational damage for the Authority.

8.0 Financial Implications

- 8.1 Any costs arising from this report will be funded from the 2019-2020 grant allocation from the Police and Crime Commissioner.

[MI/19032019/D]

9.0 Legal implications

- 9.1 Sections 5 and 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 require the Council and other responsible authorities to formulate and implement strategies to reduce crime and disorder in the area; Section 17 places a duty on the Council to do all it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in the area. Implementation of the strategy contributes towards the Council's duties in this regard.
- 9.2 A new mandatory reporting duty for FGM came into force on 31 October 2015 under Section 5B of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (amended under Section 74 of the Serious Crime Act 2015). The duty requires regulated health and social care professionals and teachers in England and Wales to report known and apparent cases of FGM in under 18-year-olds to the police and to comply with statutory reporting guidance.
- 9.3 There is a statutory requirement for SWP to undertake Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) for every domestic violence-related death occurring within its locality, under section 9 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victim Act (2004). This provision came into force on 13th April 2011.

[TS/21032019/Q]

10.0 Equalities implications

- 10.1 A full equality analysis has been completed which highlights the positive contribution the strategy will make to addressing the gendered nature of these crimes, where victims are predominantly women; however, the strategy acknowledges that there are both male and female victims and perpetrators in heterosexual and same sex relationships. It also positively recognises the targeted work to remove barriers to victims with protected characteristics who are seeking help.

11.0 Health and wellbeing implications

11.1 Domestic Abuse is a significant Public Health Issue. Providing a robust approach to tackling VAWG will reduce the prevalence of domestic abuse and will in turn improve physical and mental health of those who are affected.

12.0 Environmental implications

12.1 There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

13.0 Human resources implications

13.1 There are no human resource implications arising from this report.

14.0 Corporate landlord implications

14.1 There are no Corporate Landlord implications arising from this report.

15.0 Schedule of background papers

15.1 Adults and Safer City Scrutiny Panel, 5 February 2019 – [Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2019-2022 \(presentation\)](#)

16.0 Appendices

Appendix 1 – Tackling Interpersonal Violence and Abuse Including Violence against Women and Girls Strategy 2019-2022



Tackling Interpersonal Violence and Abuse

Including Violence Against Women and Girls

Wolverhampton's Multi-Agency Strategy 2019 -2022

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Glossary of terms

CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation	IPV	Interpersonal violence
CSP	Community Safety Partnership	ISVA	Independent Sexual Violence Adviser
DHR	Domestic Homicide Review	MARAC	Multi-agency risk assessment conference
DA	Domestic Abuse	MASH	Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub
DASHH	Domestic abuse, stalking harassment and honour-based violence risk assessment	PCC	Police and Crime Commissioner
DV	Domestic Violence	SARC	Sexual Assault Referral Centre
DVPP	Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programme	SV	Sexual Violence
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation	SWP	Safer Wolverhampton Partnership
FM	Forced Marriage	VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
HBV	Honour-Based Violence	WCCG	Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group
IDVA	Independent Domestic Violence Adviser	WDVF	Wolverhampton Domestic Violence Forum

Foreword

The rate of reported interpersonal violence (IPV) crimes provides clear evidence of the continuing partnership effort and shared responsibility needed to tackle this issue. IPV includes violence against women and girls (VAWG), which has been cited as being perhaps the most pervasive violation of human rights across the globe and continues to have devastating consequences for millions of victims and children.

Too many families are blighted by the long-term effects of these violent crimes in all its forms, which have cross-cutting implications; they are crimes, community safety issues, public health issues, vulnerable adult and child protection issues, as well as societal issues in terms of community tolerance.

The Safer Wolverhampton Partnership (SWP) is leading our local response to IPV, including VAWG and is determined to work towards eliminating these unacceptable practices in our city and adopting a zero-tolerance approach where they are perpetrated. We will do this by working closely with other boards where there are shared responsibilities, empowering our communities with facts and help-seeking pathways, training our front-line staff in effective responses, holding perpetrators and offenders to account, and safeguarding and supporting victims, survivors, and children.

SWP will be working collaboratively with Wolverhampton Domestic Violence Forum (WDVF) to inform and drive forward implementation of this strategy. WDVF is a long-standing partnership organisation that brings together specialist services to shape VAWG strategic responses and coordinate multi-agency delivery. We recognise, however, that the success of this strategy will lie not only with a strengthened agency response, negotiating revised approaches with our partners to achieve improved frontline practice, but also by changing the culture of acceptance within our communities. By working within those communities where there is a heightened risk we can increase confidence in reporting traditionally 'hidden' crimes, stem the cycle of abuse, that sometimes spans generations, and reduce vulnerability.

This strategy provides an update to the city's VAWG strategy and builds on the significant progress that has already been achieved by close partnership working over recent years. We all have a part to play in building on this success, mobilising our communities, as well as using a range of partners' resources and powers. We will develop more effective ways of working to achieve our shared outcomes of reducing the prevalence of IPV and VAWG, reducing repeat victimisation, bringing more offenders to justice and reducing serious harm.



Cllr Hazel Malcolm
City of Wolverhampton Council



Mark Taylor
Chair, Safer Wolverhampton Partnership



Penny Darlington
Chair, Wolverhampton Domestic Violence Forum

Introduction

The Safer Wolverhampton Partnership (SWP)¹ is the strategic lead for addressing IPV² and VAWG in Wolverhampton. The Partnership is committed to:

- Addressing the root cause of IPV, including VAWG
- Challenging perpetrator behaviour and holding them to account
- Alleviating the wide-ranging effects of all forms of IPV on victims³, survivors, their children, and our communities.

The vast majority of IPV is made up of VAWG; VAWG acknowledges the gendered nature of interpersonal violence, in that the majority of victims are female. Whilst it cannot be over-emphasised that the national and local strategies recognise that there are both female and male victims and perpetrators and therefore encompass work around women and girls, and also men and boys, the gendered nature of these crimes must feature in our service response.

The IPV strategy covers six key themes: Domestic Abuse (DA), Sexual Violence (SV), Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Honour-Based Violence (HBV), Forced Marriage (FM) and Stalking and Harassment.

These crimes are cross-cutting issues that require partnership responses. Building on the significant progress made against previous strategies, partners continue to review their core operations, managing budgetary constraints against a backdrop of increasing demand. A greater collaborative effort is therefore needed in the

commissioning and delivery of services to realise efficiencies, mitigate risk, address potential gaps in service, and shape new approaches. Data will also be reviewed regularly to identify any locally emerging crimes which require focus.

Effective partnership working in many areas is improving the city's response to IPV, which include:

- Attracting a range of external funding to address gaps in service and ensure sustainable improvements
- Development of an integrated response with partner boards through well informed policies, systems, and frontline practice
- Safeguarding of victims and children with risk-based responses
- Behaviours challenged through effective perpetrator and offender management and a risk-based stepped model response to holding perpetrators and offenders to account
- Reduce repeat victimisation by delivering an effective criminal justice system which responds effectively to victims
- Developing our communities' role in addressing IPV in all its forms
- Maximising joint working opportunities by ensuring our local approach is aligned to regional and national efforts to address IPV
- National, regional, sub-regional, and local policies and protocols, supporting delivery and aiding development of new approaches

¹ You can see a list of SWP members here: <http://www.saferwolverhampton.org.uk/partners.html>

² The term interpersonal violence is used to refer to the six crimes addressed in this strategy (domestic abuse, sexual violence, forced marriage, honour-based violence, female genital mutilation and stalking and harassment) previously known as VAWG. This decision was taken after feedback from wider stakeholders to clarify that these crimes will be robustly tackled regardless of the gender of the victim. Despite this, we recognise that these crimes have a gendered nature in that the majority of victims are female and will continue to ensure that this informs our approach to tackle IPV.

³ Throughout this document we will use the word victim, in recognition of the fact that a victim of domestic abuse is a victim of a crime. However, we understand that many victims prefer the term survivor, to place focus on their strength and resilience rather than the crime committed against them. We have not used the term victim/survivor for readability but encourage you to read this term as appropriate, according to your preference.



National Context

The Government's latest ending VAWG Strategy 2016-2020⁴ is framed around prevention, provision of services, partnership working and pursuing perpetrators. It proposes a preventative model, service delivery transformation and a step change in social action to achieve sustainable long- term reductions in the inter-generational prevalence of these terrible crimes.

In recent years there has been an important shift in government policy to aid local delivery:

- the introduction of significant new legislation requiring domestic homicide reviews (DHR) to be undertaken with a view to learning lessons where a domestic abuse death has occurred,
- the introduction of specific offences of stalking forced marriage and revenge pornography
- the new domestic abuse offence to capture coercive or controlling behaviour in an intimate or family relationship

A range of new tools and powers have been introduced, which include:

- DA, FM and FGM protection orders
- a national DA disclosure scheme
- mandatory reporting of FGM by registered teaching, social care and health practitioners
- strengthened measures to manage sex offenders and those who pose a risk of sexual harm

⁴ www.gov.uk/government/publications/strategy-to-end-violence-against-women-and-girls-2016-to-2020

Regional Context

Across the West Midlands a multi-agency response to tackling IPV has gained momentum in recent years as efficiencies of cross-border working are realised. The seven Local Authority areas spanning the West Midlands Metropolitan area have a strong established history of collaborative working, covering not just the Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), but also encompassing Local Authority leads, Safeguarding Boards and the work of the West Midlands Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC). The establishment of a West Midlands CSP provides further opportunity to prioritise these crimes and join up our regional approach.

Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships formed in 2016, provide a vehicle for the NHS and councils to coordinate service delivery, agree system wide priorities, and to plan collectively how to improve residents' day to day health. By empowering local leaders to plan around long term needs of the people they serve, health and care systems can make simple, practical

improvements for local communities and support the integration of a strengthened response within health services.

The PCC has committed to improving services for victims of crime, including regional provision of victims' service and establishment of an independent Victims' Commission to inform a wide range of provision across the West Midlands. The PCC's Strategic Police & Crime Plan⁵ also highlights the commitment to protect people from harm, tackling hidden crimes including FGM, HBV and FM.

There are already positive examples of joint working that can be cited across the West Midlands. West Midlands DV minimum standards were approved by all 7 areas in 2014, setting out eleven key principles of working. Strategic learning from DHRs and opportunities for future cross-border working will continue to be identified during the life of our refreshed IPV strategy.



⁵ www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk/media/435616/2016-2020-Police-and-Crime-Plan-digital.pdf

VAWG Strategy 2016-2019 Successes

Wolverhampton's establishment of the first joint adult and children's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) in the West Midlands in 2016, strengthened the response to assessing and responding to the city's safeguarding needs and integrating the domestic abuse care pathway across universal services.

Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none">MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference – manages high risk cases) process reviewed and improvedMARAC coordinator employedMainstreaming of services i.e IDVA post in Wolverhampton HomesSet-up and completion of a 2 year non-mandated DV perpetrator programmeContinuation of critical processes, eg Specialist Domestic Violence Court, MARAC, and integrating DV joint screening into MASH business as usual
Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Overarching Domestic Violence Protocol adopted and implementedMARAC Protocol implementedDevelopment and launch of the first UK multi-agency joint adult and child Forced Marriage and Honour-based Violence ProtocolSafeguarding Board organisations have put in place policies around DV
Partnership working	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Two conferences, media publicity, local events, literature, and campaigns to raise awareness of the newer subject areas of forced marriage, honour based violence, and female genital mutilationRegional DHR learning eventCloser links with key boards across the city i.e. Safeguarding BoardsWolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group (WCCG) have fully supported the strategy by utilising non-recurrent safeguarding funding from NHS England to develop local arrangements and facilitated the roll out of GP support and training

Whilst 2016-2019 strategy successes have allowed us to consolidate our partnership response, it is accepted that progress is still needed with some aspects of delivery. The commitment to further our work with educational establishments, actively involve community and faith organisations within delivery, extend the use of civil interventions to manage perpetrators and strengthen our key messaging all feature as early areas of focus and are highlighted as partnership challenges within the refreshed strategy.

Interpersonal Violence Strategy 2019-2022

Outcomes

Strategy outcomes, objectives and principles remain in line with the national picture. Our current context and performance over the last three years have informed the strategy outcomes.

Our Outcomes



Reduce the rate of repeat incidents for domestic abuse



Reduce serious harm resulting from interpersonal violence including homicide prevention



Increase the rate of reported interpersonal abuse offences brought to justice



Reduce the prevalence of interpersonal abuse including VAWG

Our objectives:

- Build cross-agency skills and capability to provide effective advice and support around interpersonal abuse
- Improve the criminal justice response to interpersonal abuse
- Increase early identification of and intervention with victims by utilising all points of contact with front line professionals
- Support victims through the criminal justice system and manage perpetrators to reduce risk

Our outcomes will be achieved whilst maintaining the following principles:

- Victims and perpetrators have access to services without discrimination due to disability, sexual orientation, race, religion/faith, culture, age or income group; women-only services will be supported as will ensuring men's access to other services.
- Services to victims and perpetrators will be designed and proportionate to the level of risk they face or pose.
- There is a commitment to providing quality services which draw on national and international best practice and standards.

Facing our Challenges in Partnership

Both the national and local strategy recognise the over-riding challenge is the need to move to a more preventative model of addressing these crimes; due to their cross-cutting nature, it is essential that this is done in partnership.

Interpersonal Violence and VAWG present a number of challenges which require a partnership response:

- Gaps in provision of a recovery model approach to DA
- Impact on children - DA is a key predictor for Children and Young People in Care, Children in Need, Child Protection and Serious Case Reviews
- Management of increasingly complex cases – particularly those with the ‘toxic trio’⁶ present
- Increasing demand and numbers of repeat cases
- Enhancing specialist knowledge into non-specialist front line services, and responding to new legislation
- Engagement of schools and education establishments
- Integration of behaviour change programmes
- Addressing housing needs and challenges
- Monitoring, auditing, and ensuring accountability
- Raise awareness and develop capacity and confidence of staff to respond
- Greater integration of responses is needed within core business of partners to inform commissioning & develop new approaches to growing demand

Whilst the crime types span all age groups, there are a number, where cultural practice within certain communities places children and young people at a significantly higher risk of harm.

Where harmful practices are maintained within certain countries of origin, it can place children and young people at a greater risk of harm:

- Young girls from known FGM practicing communities are vulnerable to FGM
- The Forced Marriage Unit suggests young people aged 16-25 are most at risk of being forced into marriage
- Local levels of risk within the city are currently being assessed.

The ‘Keeping Children Safe in Education’⁷ updated guidance 2018 issued to schools, sets out clear expectations of schools and individual staff in identifying risks associated with FGM, alongside other safeguarding responsibilities.

Despite improvements made in the partnership approach to respond to these issues, an effective city-wide response must be developed with a shift in focus from crisis management to prevention, to stem the growing demand for high risk support services; maintaining the status quo is not an option. As a partnership, there is a need to move towards a position where we are preventing the cycle of abuse, identifying and supporting victims at a much earlier point to stem the escalation towards crisis, and addressing perpetrators’ abusive behaviours.

⁶ The term ‘toxic trio’ has been used to describe the issues of domestic abuse, mental ill-health and substance misuse.

⁷ www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2

Domestic Abuse

“any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence, or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass but is not limited to psychological, physical, sexual, financial, & emotional abuse.”⁸

In the city in 2017-2018 there were 6251 domestic abuse incidents reported to the Police (220 more incidents than the previous year) 47.3% of which were recordable offences

This increase in reporting is in part attributable to an increase in prevalence due to economic downturn, more accurate recording on Police systems, an increase in incidents reported in public places that have been witnessed and reported by third parties, and public confidence in reporting. DA is known to have the highest repeat rate of any crime and to escalate in frequency and severity over time, so it is important to monitor repeated reports of DA as an indicator of increasing risk, and focus on managing that risk.

Despite this increase, the British Crime Survey recognises that:

*“the under-reporting of crime to the Police is known to be particularly acute for intimate violence offences”.*⁹

The increasing volume of domestic abuse incident reports is impacting on existing services, as is the number of high-risk of serious harm cases referred to MARAC which has continued to increase year on year until 2017- 2018. Further specialist capacity is needed to manage all high-risk domestic abuse cases within the city.

The learning from statutory DHRs has aided the move towards integrated partnership working.

	2016-2017	2017-2018
Reported Domestic Abuse Incidents	6031	6251
% Recordable offences	42.4	47.3
MARAC cases	652	651
% Repeat cases	36	36
% Non-Police referrals	31	37

⁸ www.gov.uk/government/news/new-definition-of-domestic-violence-and-abuse-to-include-16-and-17-year-olds

⁹ <https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110218140037/http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/bcs25.pdf>

Female Genital Mutilation

Female genital mutilation refers to all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. The Female Genital Mutilation Act (2003) makes it illegal to practice FGM in the UK, to take abroad British nationals or permanent UK residents for FGM, and to aid FGM being conducted abroad.

Wolverhampton is a proud well-integrated multi-cultural city. Alongside the advantages of our diversity, we are also home to residents where FGM is prevalent in their country of origin. This can place children and young people at a greater risk of harm. As these crimes are often perpetrated by family members, there is an understandable reluctance for victims to report to Police or seek support.

UNICEF data estimates the majority of FGM practice is carried out on girls under 14, with the majority cut before the age of 5, closely followed by those aged 5–9.¹⁰

There is a need to raise awareness of FGM within our communities and amongst young people in particular. The focus is to dispel myths, and present the moral, legal and medical facts and consequences of these crimes to make it easier for victims to report with confidence. The intention is to train front-line staff in identifying risks of FGM and how to respond appropriately using the full range of powers available.

	2016-2017	2017-2018
Number of FGM incidents reported to the Police	17	27
% of recordable offences	1	0

¹⁰ <https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/female-genital-mutilation/>

Forced Marriage

A forced marriage is a marriage in which one or both spouses do not (or in the case of some adults with learning or physical disabilities, cannot) consent to the marriage and duress is involved. Duress can include physical, psychological, financial, sexual and emotional pressure. Coercion is likely to have been used with one or both spouses; by family members, friends and the wider community.

The practice of forced marriage is not confined to one culture or religious group and can happen regardless of ethnicity, culture, religion, disability, age, gender and sexuality. It is significantly different from an arranged marriage which is a respected tradition in many cultures where both parties give their consent.

FM is now a specific offence under s121 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. The Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007 included provisions for the courts to make Forced Marriage Protection Orders to prevent forced marriages from occurring and to protect those who have already been forced into marriage.

During 2017-2018 there were four Forced Marriage incidents recorded by the Police in Wolverhampton.

The Mental Capacity Act 2005 states that all adults over the age of 16, have the capacity to make decisions, unless proved otherwise. There is no legal basis on which someone can agree to marriage, civil partnerships or sexual relations on behalf of someone who lacks the capacity to make these decisions independently.

	2016-2017	2017-2018
Forced marriage incidents reported to the Police	5	4
% of recordable offences	80	25

Honour-based Violence

So-called honour-based violence is defined as ‘a crime or incident, which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or community’

There is no specific offence of so-called, "honour-based crime". It is an umbrella term to encompass various offences covered by existing legislation. HBV can be described as a collection of practices, which are used to control behaviour within families or other social groups to protect perceived cultural and religious beliefs and/or honour.¹¹

During 2017-2018 there were 24 honour-based abuse incidents recorded by the Police in Wolverhampton.

Such violence can occur when perpetrators perceive that a relative has shamed the family and/or community by breaking their honour code. Punishment can be imposed because of a belief, actual or perceived, that a person has not been properly 'controlled' and is failing to conform to family or community expectations. Linked offences can include forced marriage, threats, theft (e.g. passport), assault – physical or sexual, kidnap, abduction, murder or imprisonment or rape.

	2016-2017	2017-2018
Honour-based violence incidents recorded by the Police	24	24
% that are recordable offences	62.5	67

¹¹ <https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/honour-based-violence-and-forced-marriage-guidance-identifying-and-flagging-cases>

Sexual Violence

Sexual violence is defined as ‘any behaviour perceived to be of a sexual nature, which is unwanted and takes place without consent or understanding’.

The definition of sexual violence includes but is not limited to rape, sexual abuse of a child or adult, sexual assault, sexual harassment, rape as part of a forced marriage, trafficking, exposure, voyeurism, and sexual exploitation of a child or adult. Perpetrators of sexual violence can be current or former partners or spouses, family members, colleagues, friends, as well as strangers.

The Crime Survey of England and Wales estimates that sexual violence affects 20% of women and 4% of men aged 16 or above, but that 5 in 6 incidents are not reported to the Police. Historic reporting of sexual violence increases following high profile sexual abuse scandals and media coverage, and publication of related national reports.

There is a higher prevalence of sexual violence for younger women with an estimated 1 in 3 teenage

girls experiencing some form of sexual violence from a partner, some of these incidents occurring on school premises.¹² There is also a higher prevalence of rape, sexual assault, and sexual exploitation of young women and girls associated with gangs.¹³

Conviction rates for rape and other serious sexual offences is lower than for other crimes.

The Sexual Offences Act 2003 protects individuals from abuse and exploitation, and is designed to be fair and non-discriminatory.

The quality of services for victims of sexual assaults has been improved through a West Midlands Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC), with local Independent Sexual Violence Advisers (ISVA) providing local specialist advice and support regardless of whether cases are reported to the Police.

	2016-2017	2017-2018
Serious sexual offences reported to the Police	535	615

¹² University of Bristol for NSPCC, 2009

¹³ University of Bedfordshire for the OCC, 2014

Stalking and Harassment

Stalking is 'a pattern of fixated and obsessive behaviour which is repeated, persistent, intrusive and causes fear of violence or engenders alarm or distress in the victim.'

The Protection of Freedoms Act (2012) identifies stalking as a criminal offence, allowing prosecution of perpetrators indulging in behaviour that causes the victim harassment, alarm or distress. This can include behaviour which consists of stalking or harassing victims using social media platforms, by post, by direct personal contact, or a combination of these channels.

Stalking and harassment is thought to affect 1 in 5 women and 1 in 10 men, and victims tend not to report it until around the 100th incident. Of those who contact the national stalking helpline, approximately 45% are being stalked by ex-partners, and a further third have had some sort of prior acquaintance with their stalker.





System Improvements Across all Strands of IPV

In addition to bespoke delivery around each of these strands, there will be more generic activity spanning all strands of IPV:

- Deploy all powers available through partners to protect victims and manage offenders/perpetrators
- Embed risk-based decisions and responses across frontline practice
- Improve criminal and civil justice responses.
- Strengthen systematic data monitoring and analysis
- Embed learning from DHRs & Serious Case Reviews, Safeguarding Adult Reviews and evidence changed practice
- Strengthen governance and reporting arrangements
- Embed clear referral pathways which are understood by communities and organisations, including to the SARC, MARAC and DVPP
- Continue a sustainable programme of staff training
- Embed robust, cross-agency policies and procedures
- Support educational establishments to cascade key messages to pupils
- Addressing provision gaps in the recovery model
- Focusing on improved management of complex cases

There is a range of criminal justice and civil remedies that protect victims and children witnessing interpersonal violence and abuse.

Early Areas of Focus

Communities

- Raise awareness within communities to emphasise the full moral, legal, health and safeguarding implications of interpersonal violence
- Direct preventative work in education settings, delivering key messages
- Develop a communications plan to outline how we will engage communities, partners and stakeholders across the city
- Continue and strengthen engagement with community champions

Victims

- Strengthening and promotion of care pathways
- Improve provision for the management of complex cases
- More effective management of low-medium risk DA cases through safety planning to avoid escalation of risk
- Seek feedback from victims to shape future services to meet the needs of our diverse communities
- Place greater emphasis on reducing repeat victimisation of DA
- Ensure joined up criminal and civil justice protection processes

Practitioners

- Update FGM and FM profiles to better identify prevalence and refresh FM and HBV protocol for frontline practitioners
- Embedding learning from DHRs
- Continue to train front line practitioners in responding safely and effectively to IPV and VAWG
- Improve systematic recording of interpersonal abuse across partners

Offenders

- Embed the stepped risk-model for managing DA offenders and perpetrators
- Extend the use of civil interventions to manage perpetrators
- Continue use of DVPPs to challenge offending behaviour

Delivery



The key themes of the action plan are **Prevention, Provision, Protection & Justice, and Performance.**

Underpinning the strategy is an action plan which will set out the main actions to achieve the objectives and outcomes. This requires a commitment from partners to review their delivery contributions against objectives. Alongside this will be active approaches to seek funding from a range of external sources.

The action plan will be monitored through WDFV's Executive Board, with governance provided by SWP Board. The action plan will be reviewed annually and aligned to a risk register, highlighting areas of underperformance with mitigating actions agreed.

Interpersonal violence and VAWG cuts across a number of other national, regional, and local strategies. There are well established relationships with other strategic boards in relation to some of the shared areas of responsibility for these cross-cutting issues. There are also clear links and overlaps between these crimes and other

high-profile issues including child sexual exploitation (CSE), gang and youth violence, modern slavery, and reoffending generally. This strategy will ensure that work is cross-referenced across these subject areas.

As well as maintaining a clear focus on supporting victims, our collective response to tackle the offending behaviour of perpetrators needs to gain more traction. The introduction of Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programmes (DVPPs) in 2017-2018 provided a key step in this direction. A significant culture-shift and awareness of provision is needed to embed these services as part of the city offer and support a move away from 'victim blame', which can often be the default position of many services. The Black Country Reducing Reoffending Strategy will provide an added catalyst to tackling offending behaviour associated with IPV.

Coordinated Community Response

The UK national model of best practice in dealing effectively with violence against women and girls is that of a coordinated community response model. This model requires a broad community ownership, so it becomes everybody's business and there is a collective response advocating that VAWG is not acceptable, will not be tolerated, and that it will be dealt with appropriately by holding perpetrators to account and safeguarding victims and their children.

In order to achieve a coordinated community response in Wolverhampton, underpinning our strategy outcomes, the action plan focuses on achieving the following fundamental building blocks:

High quality specialist service provision and capacity that meets demand

Communities are well informed and engaged with our commitment to address all elements of interpersonal violence

Care pathways are communicated and understood by the public and by organisations

Front line staff across organisations are trained and supported by policies and procedures to identify interpersonal violence and to respond safely via risk assessment and care pathways

Organisations are accountable for embedding lessons from domestic homicide reviews, serious case reviews, and good practice to improve frontline practice

Wolverhampton's Over-Arching DV Protocol was refreshed in 2018 and endorsed by The Safer Wolverhampton Partnership Board, and the Safeguarding Children and Adult Boards. Member organisations are working towards complying with the 16 organisational requirements included in the protocol (Appendix 2). This protocol has been incorporated into a West Midlands Domestic Violence Standards document, the principles of which are being integrated into partners' core business.

Equality & Diversity

It is important to emphasise the gendered nature these crimes, in that the majority of victims are female. However, the national and local strategies recognise that there are both female and male victims and perpetrators and therefore encompass work around women and girls, and also men and boys.

The strategy also acknowledges and aims to address the additional barriers to seeking help for particular groups. One of the West Midlands eleven Domestic Violence standards specifically covers issues of equality and diversity. There are specific cultural aspects of DA, some of which have arisen in DHRs, and recommendations in respect of these are being progressed within the VAWG strategy implementation. A full equalities analysis informs our approach.

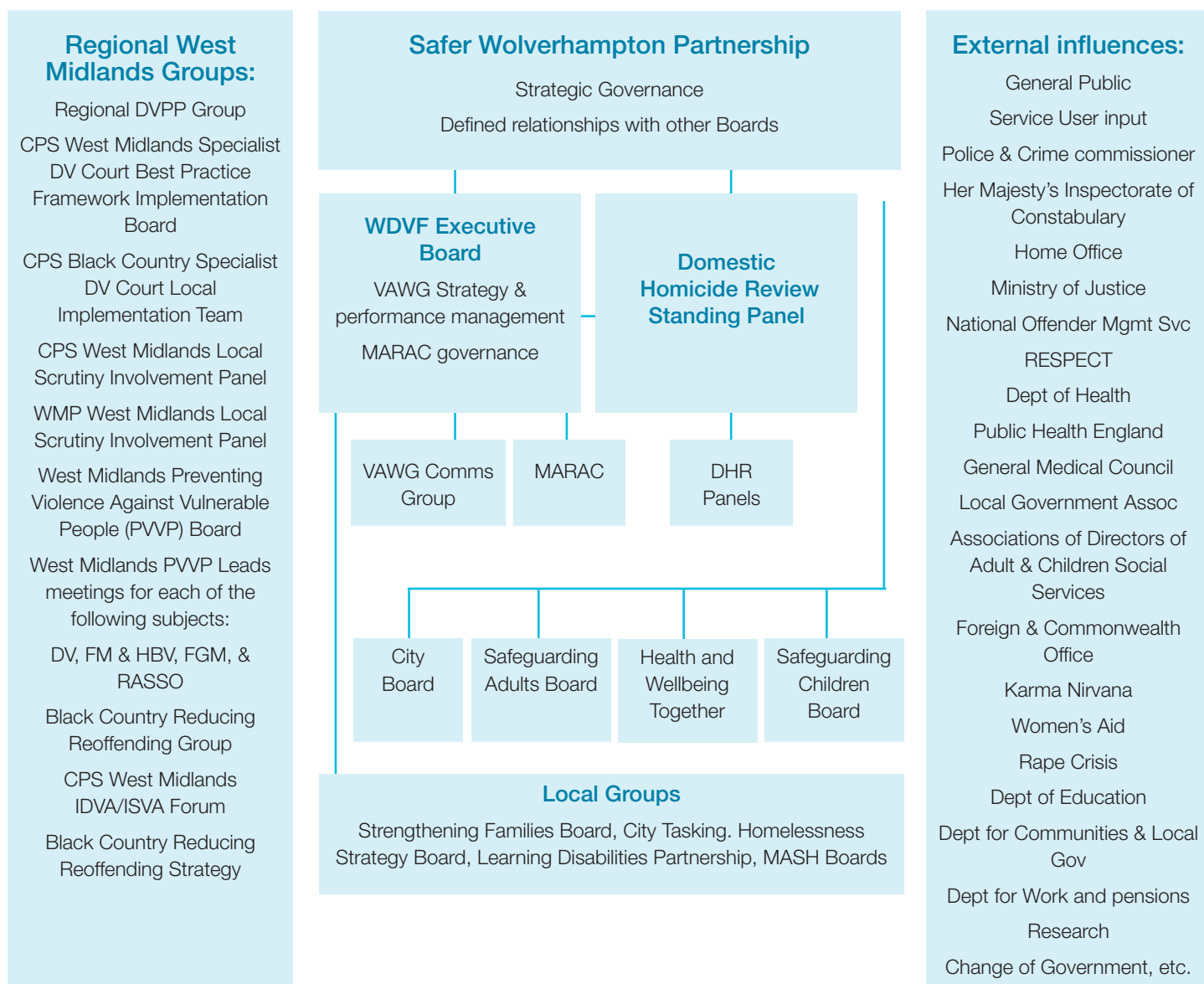
Those who may have barriers to seeking support include:

- Male victims
- Our Black, Asian, Minority, Ethnic, and Refugee communities
- Victims with disabilities
- Older victims
- Victims under 18 years
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual, and Transgender communities
- Those with no recourse to public funding
- Those with complex needs including mental ill-health and substance misuse issues

Acknowledgements

This strategy has been put together by member organisations of the Safer Wolverhampton Partnership, Wolverhampton Domestic Violence Forum and Wolverhampton Safeguarding Adults and Children Boards.

Appendix 1



Appendix 2

Over-Arching Domestic Violence Protocol 2018 - organisational requirements:

- Have in place a domestic violence policy for service users
- Have in place a workplace domestic violence policy
- Include a routine question about domestic violence on referral forms/assessments
- Provide spaces for individuals to make safe disclosures
- Hold organisational knowledge about how to avoid unsafe responses
- Ensure that responses are culture and diversity aware
- Train staff in domestic violence to an appropriate level depending on their role, including having a nominated VAWG Champion(s)
- Undertake a DASH risk assessment, or have in place an agreed referral pathway for a DASH risk assessment to be undertaken when domestic violence is disclosed
- Ensure the case is referred to MARAC where the risk assessment identifies the individual as high risk of serious harm or homicide
- Maintain up to date contact details of appropriate local help and information and leaflets to signpost victims to specialist support agencies
- Ensure learning from domestic homicide reviews is embedded
- Where appropriate, ensure that perpetrator programmes incorporate RESPECT standards
- Share domestic violence datasets through partnership arrangements (when requested)
- Ensure these requirements and The West Midlands DV Standards are incorporated into designing, commissioning, and contracting services
- Seek assurance that these requirements and The West Midlands DV Standards are embedded via internal audits
- Provide an annual statement of compliance with these requirements to WDVF Exec Board on request.

Appendix 3

You can find organisations which are able to support and offer advice to victims of VAWG here: www.saferwolverhampton.org.uk

For further information

Email: safer@wolverhampton.gov.uk

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Cabinet 10 April 2019
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Report title	City of Wolverhampton Council Safeguarding Statement	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Sandra Samuels OBE, Adults Councillor Paul Sweet, Children and Young People	
Key decision	Yes	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Accountable Director	Emma Bennett, Director of Children's Services	
Originating service	Safeguarding	
Accountable employee	Dawn Williams	Head of Safeguarding
	Tel	01902 550655
	Email	dawn.williams@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel	16 January 2019
	Adults and Safer City Scrutiny Panel	5 February 2019

Recommendation for decision:

The Cabinet is recommended to:

Approve the Safeguarding Statement for the City of Wolverhampton Council.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To present to Cabinet the final City of Wolverhampton Council Safeguarding Statement that sets out the Council's commitment and ownership of safeguarding and how this is demonstrated across the whole organisation.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 In Autumn 2018 discussions took place regarding how the organisation's commitments to safeguarding across the Council was evidenced, together with demonstrating the positive contribution of Councillors, Employees and Volunteers to the safeguarding agenda.
- 2.2 This was discussed further at the quarterly Leader's Safeguarding Briefing and it was agreed that a suite of safeguarding standards, which could be owned and embraced by the whole organisation, irrespective of different roles and responsibilities, would be developed.

3.0 Progress

- 3.1 A draft Safeguarding Statement has been developed and presented to both Children and Young People and Adult and Safer City Scrutiny panels where comments were sought into the content, layout and presentation of the document. Appendix 1 is the final proposed version.

4.0 Evaluation of alternative options

- 4.1 This is a new document. Consideration was given to not having a Safeguarding Statement although this was discarded as an option during consultation with Councillors and senior Council employees.

5.0 Reasons for decision

- 5.1 The Safeguarding Statement presents a statement of the Council's commitment to safeguarding. It sets out the standards the Council is committed to in relation to safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults, and how this is demonstrated and owned across the whole organisation regardless of role or position.

6.0 Financial implications

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report.

[JB/26032019/Y]

7.0 Legal implications

- 7.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the report.
The 'Safeguarding Statement' supports WCC's safeguarding responsibilities

[TC/27032019/T]

8.0 Equalities implications

8.1 The 'Safeguarding Statement' is reflective of the Council's responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010.

9.0 Environmental implications

9.1 There are no environmental implications identified arising from this report.

10.0 Human resources implications

10.1 There are no environmental implications identified arising from this report.

11.0 Corporate landlord implications

11.1 There are no corporate landlord implications arising from this report.

12.0 Health and Wellbeing Implications

12.1 There are no Health and Wellbeing implications arising from this report.

13.0 Appendices

Appendix 1 – City of Wolverhampton Council Safeguarding Statement

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City of Wolverhampton Council
Safeguarding Statement



1. Purpose

This statement confirms the City of Wolverhampton Council's commitment to safeguarding and demonstrates a range of initiatives which reflect our safeguarding intent.

Our Council Plan (2010-2024) places safeguarding at the heart of Wolverhampton's priorities including:

- Strengthening families where children and young people are at risk
- A safer more cohesive city community
- Protecting the most vulnerable with the right care and support

The purpose of this statement is to reinforce the safeguarding message to City of Wolverhampton Council employees, Councillors and volunteers and to provide a consistent understanding of the standards we are committed to demonstrating.

In so doing, this statement supports in protecting and promoting the welfare of the children, young people and adults using or receiving services provided or commissioned by the council and supports it to fulfil its statutory responsibilities.

This Safeguarding Statement affirms for council employees, Councillors and volunteers:

- What is expected from them to protect and safeguard children, young people and adults in need of support
- That they are able to safely voice any concerns through an established procedure
- That all reports of abuse or potential abuse are dealt with in a serious and effective manner
- That appropriate training is available
- That robust 'safer' recruitment procedures are in place.

2. Legal Duties

This document reaffirms the City of Wolverhampton Council's legislative responsibilities under the:

- **Children Act 1989 and 2004**
- **Care Act 2014**
- **Counter-Terrorism Act 2015**
- **Modern Slavery Act 2015**

and supported legislative guidance.

Specific detail on the safeguarding procedures that staff must follow can be found on the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Board website:

www.wolverhamptionsafeguarding.org.uk.

3. Safeguarding Standards

The City of Wolverhampton Council is committed to:

- Safeguarding children, young people and adults requiring support from abuse and exploitation
- Providing services that are respectful and inclusive
- Enabling children, young people and adults requiring support to contribute to, and inform the safeguarding interventions they receive
- Responding promptly, sensitively and appropriately when there are suspicions of abuse or exploitation
- Acting in the best interests of the child, young person or adults requiring support whom lack mental capacity
- Preventing unsuitable people from working with children, young people and adults requiring support through robust 'safer recruitment' procedures
- Working closely with and sharing information with partner agencies to deliver services that will keep children and adults requiring support safe
- Embedding best practice to prevent abuse and create safe and healthy environments to reduce situations where abuse or allegations of abuse could occur
- Establishing appropriate governance structures, made up with delegates from appropriate departments across the council to monitor safeguarding activity and make necessary improvements
- Ensuring all employees and Councillors are aware of the potential indicators of abuse, neglect and exploitation and are clear about what to do if they have concerns
- Providing a range of safeguarding training in order to meet individual needs
- Ensuring commissioning and procurement activities and contracts with providers reflect safeguarding expectations

4. City of Wolverhampton Safeguarding Activity

The City of Wolverhampton Council has a statutory responsibility to safeguard children and adults requiring support and achieves much of this via the operational activity of Adult and Children's Services. Whilst these services provide and promote safeguarding, the council has sought to extend its safeguarding remit and demonstrate its commitment across all departments. This list is not exhaustive but provides examples of activities across the wider organisation.

Private Hire: Wolverhampton recognise the role taxi drivers have as 'the eyes and ears of the community'. This has led to proactive input with this group in raising their awareness of safeguarding. Mandatory Child Sexual Exploitation training is provided to all licenced private hire drivers within Wolverhampton and safeguarding questions are part of the final licensing test. Wolverhampton licencing representatives attend the regional licencing forum and the work they have undertaken regarding safeguarding has been adopted as best practice.

Licensed Premises: A series of joint initiatives have been progressed with Licensing and Safeguarding services wherein licensed premises checks have included the identification of potential safeguarding abuses including the employment of underage children, and the use of premises to groom potential victims. The Safeguarding Service is an active member of the Responsible Authorities Forum to ensure consideration is given to potential safeguarding matters which may impact on the decision making of the group.

People/Place Safeguarding Forum: This forum was established to ensure departments within the Place Directorate have an understanding of safeguarding developments and the potential impact on the delivery of their services. This has resulted in the creation of discreet safeguarding tools, a review of training needs for staff with limited computer access, and exploration of safeguarding thresholds and identification of risk.

Restorative Practice and Making Safeguarding Personal: Restorative Practice and Making Safeguarding Personal aims to improve safeguarding service delivery and provide input which is inclusive, transparent supportive and challenging. These approaches have been promoted across the safeguarding partnership and are recognised as positive models by which all council activity can be delivered.

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub: The council has significantly contributed to the creation of a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) which covers both children and adults requiring support. The MASH is housed in the Civic Centre and provides a secure environment for all partners and the information they hold. The MASH is the 'front door' for referrals where there are concerns about children or adults requiring support and it is here that decisions are made regarding the level of support that is required for those for whom there are concerns.

Planning: Changes in legislation have resulted in the introduction of new planning regulations and the determination of the granting of planning permissions. The council has noted the impact on the creation of new care homes and supported accommodation provision in the city and the need to support new providers in understanding their safeguarding responsibilities. This has resulted in closer working with the planning department, safeguarding and planning applicants.

Children's Accommodation Provider Forum: To promote best practice, share Wolverhampton's safeguarding expectations and encourage consistent practice, the council has worked closely with West Midlands Police to create a Children's Care Home Providers Forum.

Fraud/Financial Abuse: Safeguarding advice and awareness-raising is provided to Bank staff in the city. Banks are adept at spotting signs of abuse and have developed professional curiosity to challenge and report financial concerns. The finance and pensions departments within the Council have reported financial concerns, resulting in action being taken to safeguard adults with care and support needs.

Mandatory Training: Safeguarding training is provided in a number of guises; via advice notes, face to face training and online activity; it may be basic or specialist. City of Wolverhampton Council has determined that safeguarding training is mandatory for all officers and members and is reflective of differing roles and responsibilities.

Community Engagement: The council has promoted the creation of a series of Champions across the city who support in a variety of aspects of safeguarding by raising awareness, delivering training, offering advice and contributing to wider partnership activity. These champions come from a different departments and job roles.



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CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Cabinet 10 April 2019
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Report title	Children and Young People's Participation and Co-Production Strategy 2019-2021	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Paul Sweet Children and Young People	
Key decision	Yes	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Accountable Director	Emma Bennett, Director of Children's Services	
Originating service	Children and Young People in Care	
Accountable employee	Alice Vickers	Corporate Parenting Officer
	Tel	01902 553010
	Email	alice.vickers@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Education and Children's Leadership Team	4 March 2019
	Strategic Executive Board	26 March 2019
	Children, Young People and Families	27 March 2019
	Scrutiny Panel	

Recommendations for decision:

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Approve the Children and Young People's Participation and Co-Production Strategy 2019-2021.
2. Endorse the Council's commitment to ensuring that children and young people have influence over decisions and actions on services that affect them.

1.0 Purpose

1.1 This report sets out the City of Wolverhampton Council's commitment to the importance of effective participation of children and young people and co-production of the services that affect them.

2.0 Background

2.1 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child contains 52 standards that set out the Rights of a Child. Most countries including the United Kingdom have signed up to the convention. Many countries use the standards wholly or in part to promote children and young people's involvement. The standards of most relevance to the participation of service users are:

- Article 12: Children and young people have the right to say what they think should happen, when adults are making decisions that affect them, and to have their opinions taken into account.
- Article 13: Children and young people have the right to get and to share information, as long as the information is not damaging to them or others.
- Article 17: Children and young people have the right to receive, seek and give information.
- Article 23: Disabled children and young people have the right to active participation in their community.
- Article 2: Requires all of the rights in the convention on the Rights of the Child to be implemented for every child, without discrimination.

2.2 The City of Wolverhampton Council has a long and impressive history of effective participation of children and young people with the Youth Council (Youth Service) and Children in Care Council (Looked After Children). Both the forums and children and young people's participation is supported by 1.5 Fulltime Equivalent Participation Officers based in the Children and Young People in Care Service.

2.3 The Participation Strategy was developed and designed using workshops with members of the Children in Care Council and the Youth Council during 2018-2019. These workshops focused on what good participation means to young people and practice from other authorities. Young people shared that they wanted to be engaged in service development and decisions making.

2.4 The participation workshop group also explored the different forums for young people and how they could share the outcomes of consultation with young people i.e. School Councils and vulnerable young peoples' groups.

3.0 Progress

3.1 The Participation and Co-Production Strategy sets out clear standards of participation for children and young people to ensure that it is not tokenistic and remains relevant.

These standards are:

- Children and young people have the right to participate or not. If they choose to participate, they have the right to understand their responsibilities.
- Participation should be delivered within Wolverhampton's equality and diversity policies or structures.
- There should be clear evidence of commitment to participation from members of the Children and Families Together Board Trust, Safeguarding Children Board, City of Wolverhampton Council Leaders, employees and other relevant partner organisations.
- Services should agree to the Hear by Right quality standards and codes of conduct for working with children and young people.
- Participation should be embedded in strategic planning, delivery, commissioning, communication, business improvement activities, and recruitment.
- Opportunities and support should be provided to all staff and volunteers in order that they develop the skills and attitudes required to work effectively with children and young people.
- Children and young people's involvement should be valued. They should be treated honestly. This means that their expectations are managed, and they are helped to understand any practical, legal or political boundaries of their involvement.
- Children and young people's contributions (appropriate to their age and maturity), should be taken seriously and acted upon. There should be regular feedback from children and young people to confirm that this happens.
- Feedback to children and young people on the impact of their involvement should be timely and clear.
- Children and young people should have equal opportunity to get involved. They should not be discriminated against, or prevented from participating effectively, on grounds of race, religion, culture, sexuality, disability, age, ethnic origin, language, where they live, or the location of services.
- Services should proactively target those facing the greatest barriers to getting involved, for example, younger children, children and young people from minority ethnic backgrounds, those living in disadvantaged neighbourhoods, children missing school, young people in the youth justice system, refugees, traveller children, and disabled and other children with special needs. Services should make sure that

children and young people are aware of opportunities to have their say, and they should be encouraged and enabled them to use them.

- Children and young people are encouraged and supported to develop skills that enable them to contribute effectively, and to realise the benefits of doing so.
- Relevant information should be made available to children and young people. It should be at the right time, in the right format, no jargon, culturally appropriate and accessible. Policies and standards for participation should be provided, evaluated and continuously improved.
- Services should say from the beginning how they will know if they are doing a good job of listening to children and young people.
- Children and young people should be involved in reviewing lessons learned.
- The participation strategy should be considered in partnership contracts and service level agreements with providers, whenever possible.

3.2 Each of the participation groups and forums has direct lines of governance as outlined in the diagram below. This ensures that members and officers can support children and young people in having their opinions heard at a corporate and strategic level.



4.0 Evaluation of alternative options

4.1 The Children and Young People's Participation and Co-Production Strategy ensures that the Council is compliant with statutory requirements.

5.0 Reasons for decision

5.1 The previous Strategy expires in 2019 and therefore a revision and development of the Strategy is now required.

6.0 Financial implications

6.1 Any costs associated with the strategy will be contained within the approved budget for 2019-2020 of £122,000 from Children and Young People's Corporate Parenting Service.

[NM/21032019/A]

7.0 Legal implications

7.1 The relevant legislation is set out in the body of the report. There are no direct legal implications arising from the report.

[TC/01042019/A]

8.0 Equalities implications

8.1 An initial equalities analysis has been completed and is available to view on request.

9.0 Environmental implications

9.1 There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

10.0 Human resources implications

10.1 There are no human resource implications arising from this report.

11.0 Corporate landlord implications

11.1 There are no corporate landlord implications arising from this report.

12.0 Health and Wellbeing implications

12.1 There are no health and wellbeing implications arising from this report.

13.0 Appendices

Appendix 1 – Children and Young People’s Participation and Co-Production Strategy
2019 - 2021

Children and Young People's Participation and Co-Production Strategy 2019 - 2021



Our vision

In Wolverhampton we want children and young people to participate in the broadest sense of the word in issues, services and decisions that affect them. We want children and young people to co-produce policies, procedures, services and provision that affect them and their families.

The City of Wolverhampton Council wants to ensure young people are engaged, informed, consulted and have opportunity to initiate discussions about all aspects of the council. This strategy will support not only development of Children's Service, but also have a wider influence in the developments in the City, by the council and its partners. This influence will be at a local, regional and national level.

We want the children and young people of Wolverhampton to:

- have equal opportunity to meaningfully participate
- be involved in designing services of the future
- contribute to and benefit from involvement in their local communities
- feel that they are being heard and valued
- be able to make a difference
- improve their education and skills through participation opportunities

In Wolverhampton, this is what we mean when we talk about 'participation and co-production.

How we will achieve our vision

Using the above vision as the action points, SMART planning and monitoring will be used to measure the effectiveness of participation of children and young people in the design and development of services. This will include formal forums such as the Youth Council, B-Safe Group and Children in Care Council as well as other sub groups. This collective will be known as Wolverhampton's Youth Voice. School Councils and voluntary groups (who support the most vulnerable of our children and young people) will be actively encouraged to participate in the City's Youth Voice Forums as well as.

Children and young people will be supported and educated in their roles and responsibilities in being effective and representative of the community they represent.

Children and young people will be involved in the recruitment and selection processes of relevant staff and train and develop staff in areas of corporate interest in relation to the needs of children and young people.

The children and young people will develop ways of engaging other children and young people to have their voice heard in arenas where their knowledge and experience can influence decision makers.

The City of Wolverhampton Council will publicise the work of Youth Council and communicate with young people in Wolverhampton by utilising social media.

The children and young people will be consulted on Policy and Strategy developments from the Children and Young People's Service as standard practice.

The Children and Young People's Participation and Co-production action plan will accompany this strategy and be reviewed annually.

What does good participation and Co-production look like?

Participation is not just "taking part" or "being present" but about having influence over decisions and actions. Children and young people should be involved in the whole process of deciding the best services for all.

Children and young people should have a say in decisions about their own lives.

Services should be developed and improved, based on information we get from children and young people.

Why is this important?

There is evidence that everyone benefits from involving children and young people in decision making

- Children and young people
- Organisations
- The wider community

There are also laws and policies which ensure children and young people are involved in decision making.

Who will make sure all this is happening?

The Participation Team and Headstart Youth Engagement Team will be working with groups of children and young people and supporting them to ensure their voices are heard.

Their work will be monitored and evaluated by the young people, The Growing Well Board, SEND Challenge Board, Wolverhampton's Children and Young People Scrutiny Board and by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People.

The City of Wolverhampton Council's Standards and Principles of Participation and Co-production.

- Children and young people have the right to participate or not. If they choose to participate, they have the right to understand their responsibilities.
- Young people should be the prime designers of the Participation and Co-Production Strategy.
- The City of Wolverhampton Council's Cabinet, Boards and Scrutiny Panels may work directly with the Wolverhampton's Youth Voice Groups.
- The City of Wolverhampton Council will provide a way for all children, young people and families in Wolverhampton to have a voice, to be heard by key decision makers and get as involved as they want to in be shaping what happens to them.
- The City of Wolverhampton Council will develop a way of making sure that children, young people and families can check whether their voice is being acted upon or not.
- The City of Wolverhampton Council will provide support to children, young people and families to ensure that they are equipped with the skills and knowledge to enable them to participate.
- Participation and Co-production should be delivered within Wolverhampton's equality and diversity policies or structures.
- There should be clear evidence of commitment to participation from members of the Growing Well Board, Safeguarding Children Board, City of Wolverhampton Council leaders, employees and other relevant partner organisations.
- Services should agree to the Hear by Right quality standards and codes of conduct for working with children and young people.
- Participation and Co-production should be embedded in strategic planning, delivery, commissioning, communication, business improvement activities, and recruitment.
- Opportunities and support should be provided to all employees and volunteers in order that they develop the skills and attitudes required to work effectively with children and young people.
- Children and young people's involvement should be valued. They should be treated honestly. This means that their expectations are managed, and they are helped to understand any practical, legal or political boundaries of their involvement.
- Children and young people's contributions (appropriate to their age and maturity), should be taken seriously and acted upon. There should be regular feedback from children and young people to confirm that this happens.
- Feedback to children and young people on the impact of their involvement should be timely and clear.

- Children and young people should have equal opportunity to get involved. They should not be discriminated against, or prevented from participating effectively, on grounds of race, religion, culture, sexuality, disability, age, ethnic origin, language, where they live, or the location of services.
- Services should proactively target those facing the greatest barriers to getting involved. For example, younger children, children and young people from minority ethnic backgrounds, those living in disadvantaged neighbourhoods, children missing school, young people in the youth justice system, refugees, traveller children, and disabled children with special needs. Services should make sure that children and young people are aware of opportunities to have their say, and they should be encouraged and enabled them to use them.
- Children and young people are encouraged and supported to develop skills that enable them to contribute effectively, and to realise the benefits of doing so. Is gap too big here?
- Relevant information should be made available to children and young people. It should be at the right time, in the right format, no jargon, culturally appropriate and accessible.
- Policies and standards for participation and co-production should be provided, evaluated and continuously improved.
- Services should say from the beginning how they will know if they succeed listening to children and young people.
- Children and young people should be involved in reviewing lessons learned.
- The Participation and Co-production Strategy should be considered in partnership contracts and service level agreements with providers, whenever possible.
- Ensure that practitioners working with children, young people and families have the skills and knowledge to involve them effectively.



Wolverhampton's Youth Voice

Wolverhampton's Youth Council

The Youth Council is made up of young people elected by their school, community group or specialist service to contribute to the Council's development of services that effect young people, for example community engagement, health and wellbeing, children and young people and City developments. This is achieved by the inclusion of the group in the Council's scrutiny away days, and two seats being available on Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel and Community Cohesion Board.

The group meets monthly, but also incorporates task groups focusing on specific issues as highlighted by their agenda or that of the councils. It leads on Make Your Mark for the City and uses the outcome to influence scrutiny planning in the council. Workshops and training is completed with the group to ensure that the young people are well supported and skilled in tasks required of them. This group also engages in the national youth forums – two youth MPs and two Youth Crime Commissioners are elected through the group. The group holds an Annual General Meeting (AGM) and shares its annual reports with Council Leaders.

Wolverhampton's Children in Care Council

The Children in Care Council (CiCC) is made of young people aged 11-18 who are in care of the City Council, some live with foster carers, in residential homes, with friends and family carers or independently. These young people are nominated to become members of CiCC by their social workers, Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO), foster carers or other professionals who feel that young person would benefit from the skills acquired as part of the council. CiCC is a statutory requirement as laid down by the Care Matters White Paper 2007.

This group meets monthly. The young people complete induction training; interview training and some will complete the Total Respect Training. In addition to the group meetings, they meet twice a year with the Corporate Parenting Board. The CiCC work plan includes consultation on all of the reports sent to this board. This process is to ensure the experiences and opinions of the young people are embedded into service delivery and development. This group attends national forums through the National Children's Board (NCB) which advises on national policy.

Wolverhampton's Care Leavers Forum

The Care Leavers Forum (Care Leaver Independent Collective, CLIC) is made up of young people who are supported by the council leaving care team known as the Transitions Team. These young people are 18 -25 (depending on their educational status) and are either living independently, living with a host or staying put with foster carers. They are recruited to the forum through advertisements on Facebook, through their Young Person's Advisors (YPA) or social worker.

The group meets monthly and has its meeting combined with a peer support element as these young people can be very isolated. The formal part of the meeting is for an hour and half where they look at policy developments and service provision and give feedback to officers. This group also takes part in the National Care Leaver Covenant and National Benchmarking Forum which feeds into national policy development for Care Leavers.

Wolverhampton's B-safe Team HeadStart Ambassadors

The B-Safe Team is Wolverhampton's Junior Safeguarding Children Board, made up of local young people who get involved with safeguarding activities and decisions across the city.

The board enables the voice of Wolverhampton's young people to be heard and reflected in safeguarding business and activities, empowering young people to contribute to the processes and methods to keep them safe, and to increase awareness of safeguarding amongst parents and professionals.

HeadStart Ambassadors

HeadStart Ambassadors are aged 16 to 25 and assist with engaging young people to ensure that their voices are heard. The group works alongside the Headstart Programme to facilitate groups of young people aged 10-16 and support in the delivery of programmes and projects. Their role also includes sharing the views of young people with the professionals. HeadStart Ambassadors sit on the Headstart Shadow Board, a group of young people with genuine

decision-making power, and the power to challenge and support the leadership of HeadStart in delivering the very best for young people in the City.

Voices in Youth Justice

This group is made of young people who are experienced in the youth justice process in Wolverhampton. They meet monthly to look at ways in which the Youth Offending Team can support young people accessing this service.

They meet annually with the Youth Offending Management Board.

Wolverhampton Changing Our Lives

This group is made up of young people with special educational needs. They meet monthly to look at the Special Educational Needs Local Offer and attend focus groups for consultation.

To ensure the Local Offer is co-produced and includes young people's views, Wolverhampton Council have funded Changing Our Lives to work with children and young people with a range of disabilities and SEN to develop a Local Offer Communication Strategy.

Future Engagement in the life of the Strategy

During the life of this strategy further development of groups of young people affected by services provided by the council will be developed, it is hoped that resources on specialist groups will be an addition to this list, particularly with participation forum being delivered to Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children.

Benefits of participation

Consideration should be made in evaluating the need for:

- Rewards for involvement
- Accreditation of involvement
- Training for involvement
- Young people 'peer mentoring' children
- Partnership board members mentoring Youth Council members

Benefits for children and young people include:

- Personal development
- Improved self confidence
- Influencing decisions which affect their lives
- Development of a social network
- Feeling valued and empowered
- Better understanding of how organisations work and make decisions
- Involvement in commissioning services and recruiting staff
- Helping to monitor and evaluate services ('young inspectors')

Benefits for organisations

- Services are increasingly responsive to children and young people's needs and concerns
- Fresh perspectives and new ideas on services, policies and democratic processes
- Services and policies designed for actual rather than presumed needs
- Become more accessible to children and young people
- Become more efficient, as they provide a more effective service for children and young people
- Decision making improves and becomes more accountable
- Raises aspirations for all

Benefits for the wider community

- More vibrant local democracy
- Community cohesion
- An empowering environment
- Opportunities for increased political awareness and fair representation
- More children and young people involved in the democratic process.
- Children and young people have a greater opportunity to influence decisions.
- Children and young people will be more able to scrutinise political decisions that affect their lives.

Review

This is a 3 year strategy for the Council, to ensure its relevance, to monitor progress and influence the participation action plan, an annual review will consult with young people, employees and partners young people.

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CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Cabinet 10 April 2019
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Report title	City of Wolverhampton Youth Council Annual Report 2018	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Paul Sweet Children and Young People	
Key decision	Yes	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Accountable Director	Emma Bennett, Director of Children's Services	
Originating service	Children and Young People	
Accountable employee	Alice Vickers Tel Email	Corporate Parenting Officer 01902553010 alice.vickers@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Children's Leadership Team Strategic Executive Board	7 March 2019 12 March 2019

Recommendations for decision:

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Endorse the Youth Council's future aims for 2019.
2. Acknowledge the work of the City's Youth Council throughout 2018 as outlined in their annual report, attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To enable the Cabinet to consider the work carried out by the City of Wolverhampton Youth Council throughout 2018, as outlined in the attached Annual Report.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The City of Wolverhampton's Youth Council was formed in 2001 and has developed into a group for young people to represent their views to decision makers in the City. The Youth Council is made up of young people aged 12-18 years, who are nominated by the organisations they represent. The Youth Council links into the scrutiny process of the City of Wolverhampton Council and meets with senior officers of the Council on a regular basis and is a member of Youth Organisations Wolverhampton (YOW). On a national basis, the Youth Council is a member of the British Youth Council and of the United Kingdom Youth Parliament. The Youth Council have written this report to highlight their achievements which is attached.

3.0 Progress

- 3.1 The City of Wolverhampton Council Annual report is attached for information and the objectives over the next year are set from the results of the 'Make Your Mark' vote.

4.0 Evaluation of alternative options

- 4.1 This an annual report and is to share with Councillors the activities of the City's Youth Council throughout 2018.

5.0 Reasons for decision

- 5.1 Endorsing the Youth Council Annual Report 2017 and acknowledging the work completed gives relevance and support to the Youth Council and their continued work.

6.0 Financial implications

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report.
- 6.2 Any costs associated with the Youth Council are funded from within existing budgets within the Children and Young People Service.

[NM/25022018/L]

7.0 Legal implications

- 7.1 There are no legal implications attached to the report, if any are required they will be attached to the relevant projects and decisions.

[LW/25022019/U]

8.0 Equalities implications

8.1 The Youth Council represents the views of young people living within the City. The Youth Council is part of Service Equality Action Plan and are assisting in the Council's submission to excellent.

9.0 Environmental implications

9.1 There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

10.0 Human resources implications

10.1 There are no human resources implications arising from this report.

11.0 Corporate landlord implications

11.1 There are no corporate landlord implications arising from this report.

12.0 Health and Wellbeing implications

12.1 There are no health and wellbeing implications arising from this report.

13.0 Appendices

Appendix 1 – City of Wolverhampton Youth Council Annual Report 2018

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CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON
YOUTH
COUNCIL

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City of Wolverhampton Youth Council Annual Report 2018

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OUTGOING CHAIR'S STATEMENT

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Firstly, I would like to wish Anna the best of luck as Chair over the next year. Not only do I know she'll have a wonderful time in the role, I know she is a very capable will do her absolute best for the young people of Wolverhampton. I also want to thank the Youth Councillors, and to give my best wishes to all the new young people joining. I'm sure they will have a wonderful time. I look forward to seeing what Wolverhampton's Youth Council does next.

I am leaving both Youth Council and UK Youth Parliament in March 2019, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on my involvement in youth voice groups since 2016. The City's Youth Council

has given me and other young people some incredible opportunities. I've had the chance to represent the city at the UK Youth Parliament for two years. This experience has led to me speaking from the Dispatch Box of the House of Commons, I've made a group of lifelong friends both in the West Midlands and across this country. Our local campaign on lowering the voting age led to the Council officially backing Votes at 16. We've developed much stronger links with the council, been involved in interviews of council directors, and held our first series of Mini Scrutiny Reviews. Some of our achievements have served as inspirations to other youth councils across our region and the

country. I have been approached by members of other youth councils, to share our success in building a strong relationship with Scrutiny and our work on Votes at 16. I want to give a special thank you to the Participation Team for their continued support to the Youth Council. I would also like to thank The City of Wolverhampton's Senior leaders and Councillors for their support and encouragement. I look forward to seeing what Wolverhampton Youth Council do in the future.



Amias Perry
Outgoing Chair

INCOMING CHAIR'S FOREWORD

I would like to start by expressing what a great year we have had at Wolverhampton Youth Council – despite it being the only year that I've been a part of the organisation. I would like to take some time to thank all our previous members, who have now moved on to different chapters in there, and give a friendly welcome to all of our enthusiastic new members, who I am looking forward to work with and get to know over these next few months.

I am hoping to inspire and encourage our new members to speak out and get involved in what Youth Council has to offer them, and I am looking forward to finding out what they are capable of as we work towards our aims for 2019, focusing on the results of last year's Make Your Mark vote.

After last year's success with our mini scrutiny reviews I am hoping to continue to carry out these insightful panels to ensure the views of our schools and organisations are represented and to maintain the strong connections we have developed with the rest of City of Wolverhampton Council and other organisations.



Anna Tabner
Incoming Chair

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INTRODUCTION

City of Wolverhampton Youth Council is an organisation run by young people for young people.

We aim to represent the views of young people, challenge negative stereotypes and promote diversity. We work with other organisations in Wolverhampton, develop campaigns and act as a platform for young people to express their views to decision makers. We meet at least once a month.

Following previous years successes, we adopted the same style of recruitment in November 2018, allowing schools and voluntary sector groups to elect two representatives.

This resulted in representation from 19 secondary schools and 3 youth groups across the city. These new Youth Councillors completed an induction at the end of 2018 which has included a Get to know the Council's Budget with Councillor Louise Miles Johnson Cabinet member for resources and Claire

Nye Director of Resources which also provided an opportunity for the Youth Council to be part of the council's budget consultation. During this induction the Youth Council also inputted into the new Council Plan. The induction ended with a Christmas Party with members of the Children in Care Council.

The experiences of the Youth Council were highlighted in short video we used this in schools to promote our work to other young people in the city.

We are pleased that our achievements have served as an inspiration to other youth councils in the country, who in particular are keen to develop stronger links with their City Council's scrutiny process.

This is our annual report which covers our key achievements for 2018 as well as looking forward to and considering our aims for the following year.



REPRESENTATION

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	Youth Councillors	Youth Comm'r Reps.	Youth Comms. Officer	Youth Council Chair	Youth Council Vice Chair	Youth Council Secretary	Youth MP
Aldersley High School	● ●	● ●					
Colton Hills School	● ●					●	
Coppice High School	● ●						
Wolverhampton Girls' High School	● ●						
Wolverhampton Grammar School	● ●				●		
Heath Park High School	● ●						
Highfields	● ●			●			
The Khalsa Academy	● ●						
Kings' School Wolverhampton							●
Moreton School	● ●					●	
Moseley Park School	● ●						
The Royal School	●						

The City of Wolverhampton Youth Council is proud to have representatives from eighteen schools and five youth groups across the city.

	Youth Councillors	Youth Comm'r Reps.	Youth Comms. Officer	Youth Council Chair	Youth Council Vice Chair	Youth Council Secretary	Youth MP
Smestow School	● ●						●
Our Lady and St Chads	● ●						
Ormiston NEW Academy	● ●						
St Edmund's School	● ●						
St Matthias School	● ●						
St Peter's School	● ●						
Wednesfield High School	● ●						
B-Safe Team	●						
Youth Voice	●						
Hope Family Centre	●						

Ormiston South Wolverhampton Academy and West Midlands UTC didn't take part this year. Work will be taking place in 2019 to ensure representation from their school. Our aim is still for all schools across the city to have reps on the Youth Council.

WORKING WITH DECISION MAKERS FROM THE CITY COUNCIL

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- During 2018 we strengthened our relationship with the City Council’s Scrutiny process we attended every meeting for the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel and contributed to the Members Away Day. We attended the Confident, Capable Council to discuss Apprenticeships which discussed changing attitudes towards Apprenticeships. At these meetings we aim to contribute to all topics that are being discussed.
- For the first part of the year we spent time focusing on the newly developed Mini Scrutiny Reviews which were developed with the Scrutiny Board to look at the top issues from the 2017 Make Your Mark result which were Work Experience, Mental Health and Transport.
- In preparation, the Youth Council carried out additional questionnaires on the work experience and mental health to ensure they had a full understanding on the issues effecting young people before undertaking the mini reviews.
- We meet with Laura Shoaf the Managing Director of Transport for West Midlands to discuss issues young people raised with us regarding public transport.
- The work on Mental Health coincided with the Governments Green Paper titled “Transforming Children and Young People’s Mental Health Provision”. This paper provided a focus for the review and an opportunity for the Youth Council to respond to the Green Paper.



- Representatives of the Youth Council met to discuss Mental Health the review was chaired by Councillor Lynn Moran, Councillor Val Gibson (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People) Alicia Woods, the Commissioning Manager and Emma Cleary Programme Manager for Head start, attended the review to provide evidence.
- The Youth Council Scrutiny review on work experience 23 was supported by Councillor Bhupinder Gakhal. We received evidence from the Skills and Employability Manager (Young People) the Education and Enterprise Manager and The Director of Education.

- The recommendations from all the reviews were also discussed with the Council’s People Leadership Team, Educations Leadership team and Senior Management Board.
- We concluded this work by meeting with the Scrutiny Board to feedback Scrutiny, the Youth Council’s recommendations and included them into the work of the Council and Partners.
- The evidence and findings from the mini Scrutiny Review on Work Experience were also included in the British Youth Council National Youth Select Committee report on Work Experience.

- Youth Councillors were involved with the children’s commissioner’s ‘Takeover Day’; with Members of the Children in Care Council and Care Leavers Forum where members had the opportunity to be involved in a range of experiences with decision makers from the City Council. During this day we discussed the regeneration plans for the city centre focusing on the West Side Development, and looked at knife crime as part of the City Council’s Youth Violence Strategy as well as the Children’s Services Practice week.
- The Youth Council have been attending the Community Cohesion Forum to ensure young people’s voices are being listened to at this important meeting for community and faith groups in the city.
- During this year we have spent a considerable amount of time with the council’s Directors that make up the Council’s Senior Management Team. We were excited to be part of the interview process of the Council’s Managing Director post. We have meet with the Council’s Managing Director as part of a Youth Engagement event where we feedback our work and learnt more about the aims of the council, and how we could closer together.
- As part of this we have continued to develop are ongoing relationship with Emma Bennett the Director of Children’s Services and with Cllr Paul Sweet the Cabinet member for children and young people.

LOCAL RECOGNITION

Members of the organisation continue to be recognised for their work in various arenas none more so that the Rotary Club Wolverhampton Citizen of the Year in which four of the finalists having links with the Youth Council with Millie Betteridge winning the award fin 2018 that Emma Curran won in 2017. We are keen to ensure the volunteering that young people do for Wolverhampton continues to receive the recognition that they deserve.

NETWORKING WITH OTHER YOUTH VOICE GROUPS

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- The Youth Council has continued to engage with other groups by attending their meetings and meeting their members. These groups include The Way Youth Zone, the B-Safe team and the Children in Care Council. We have developed our relationship and contributed to the work of HeadStart, ensuring that the work we have done nationally has been feed into the work locally.
- The B-Safe Team, Children in Care Council and Youth Council attended a joint residential in August Condover Hall which give us an opportunity to get to know each other better and the work of each other.
- We have spent some time working with the Care Leavers Forum this year and are keen to continue to work with them in the future.
- This year we held a Joint Christmas Party with members of the CICC.
- Members of the Youth Council are encouraged to feedback to their School Voice Mechanisms.

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL WORK

Youth Council supported the annual Youth Parliament Make Your Mark ballot with a total of 8582 votes by young people from 19 Secondary schools and 2 Youth Organisations. The top issues for Wolverhampton were Put an End to Knife Crime, Mental Health and Equal Pay for Equal Work. During the national Youth Parliament debates held at Westminster the Youth MPs voted and debated on the top 5 issues and decided that Put an End to Knife Crime and Votes at 16 as the national campaigns. We will be focusing on the top issues from Wolverhampton over the next 12 months.

Make
Your Mark



YOUTH POLICE CRIME COMMISSIONERS

Wolverhampton has two Youth PCCs who have seats on the Youth Council. This year the Police Crime Commissioner introduced an on-line voting system for elections across the West Midlands.

Two members of the Youth Council were elected to the role. The Youth Council continue to work with the office of the Police Crime Commissioner. The Youth Council attended the Youth Summit where young people from across the West Midlands attend. This year's theme was on Youth Violence with a particular emphasis on Knife Crime.

KEY CITIES YOUTH CONFERENCE

The Youth Council sent reps to the Key Cities Youth Conference and contributed to the Changing the Future document. Key Cities comprises of 20 of the UK's cities. Cities with a GVA £110 billion and population of 5.6 million when combined. Where possible we intend to attend Key Cities Events in 2019 to ensure the voice of Wolverhampton young people is being fed into the future plans of Key Cities.



CENTRO YOUTH FORUM

Through the work with Laura Shoaf the Youth Council developed links with the Centro Youth Forum. We attended meetings one of the meetings specifically looking at Birmingham New Street and the work of the British Transport Police at the station.

AIMS FOR 2019

- To be inclusive of all youth groups in Wolverhampton.
- To further increase the turnout of Secondary Schools and Voluntary Sector.
- To develop School involvement and commitment to the Coproduction Charter and Participation Strategy.
- To ensure that our members are Ambassadors for the city.
- To develop the links into the work of Key Cities.
- To increase the Youth Council's involvement in delivering Make Your Mark in schools to amplify our national voice further.
- To develop varied consultation methods with young people to inform views shared at scrutiny meetings.
- To develop engagement with Councillors by inviting more to our meetings.



This information can be made available
in a range of languages and formats

 WolverhamptonToday  @WolvesCouncil  WolverhamptonToday

wolverhampton.gov.uk 01902 551155

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